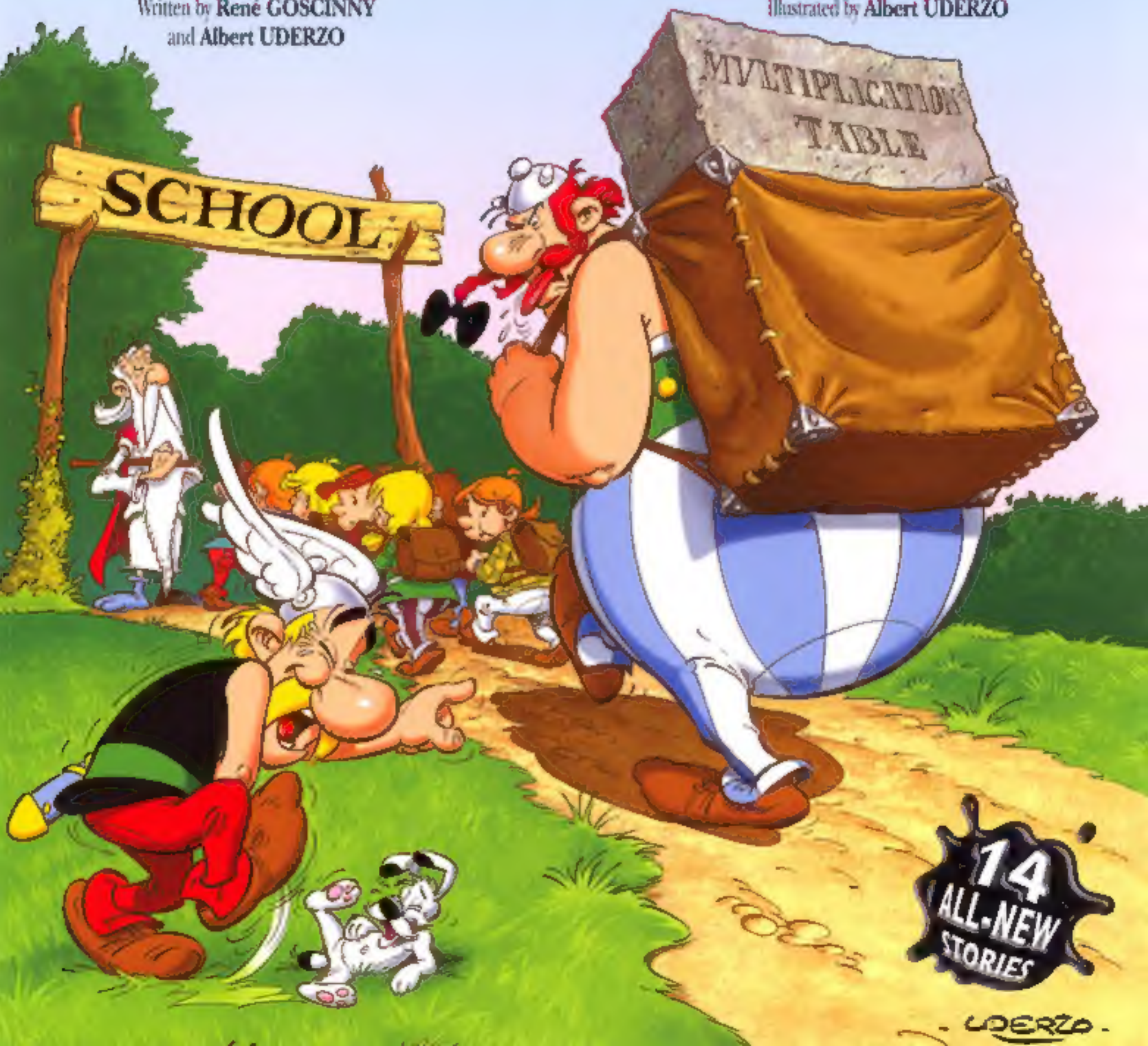


R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

# **Asterix** *and* *the class act*

Written by René GOSCINNY  
and Albert UDERZO

Illustrated by Albert UDERZO



**14**  
ALL-NEW  
STORIES

UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

*Fourteen all-new Asterix stories*

# **Asterix** *and the class act*

*Written by* RENÉ GOSCINNY  
and ALBERT UDERZO

*Illustrated by* ALBERT UDERZO



*Translated by* ANTHEA BELL and DEREK HOCKRIDGE





## The French publisher's note

During the 1960s, when René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo had time to spare from writing and drawing the longer Asterix adventures ... which was not very often ... they produced some little masterpieces in the form of complete short stories. The French magazine "Pilote", enjoyed by a whole generation of children, in which the Asterix stories first appeared, published most but not all of them. Others appeared in such places as American newspapers, a women's magazine, and as part of a bid for the Olympic Games to be held in Paris. It seemed a good idea to collect all these short stories in a special Asterix album — in fact here at Les Éditions Albert René, we were receiving such terrible threats that we absolutely had to do it. If we didn't publish them, said readers, they would make us eat roast boar for breakfast! So we gave in to the outrageous demands of certain blackmailers whose identity we shall have to reveal one of these days.

But for the moment, having brought these lost treasures to light, we hope you will enjoy reading them. Some of the stories in this book are both written and illustrated by Albert on his own, because they were created after the death in 1977 of his friend and colleague, the other half of the most famous strip cartoon team in the world: René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo.

None of these stories had been published in English before, although several were included in our 1993 collection (see page 47 for the full story).

Seeing his publishers absorbed in the difficult but fascinating task of collecting the stories and improving the original picture quality for "Asterix and the Class Act", Albert set to work again. And in the spring of 2003 he produced the cover design and the words and drawings for a brand-new five-page story, about a cockerel with amazing powers. Will the rooster who wakes the Gauls every morning rouse the children of today to get up and go to school for their own class act?

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Exclusive licensee: Orion Publishing Group • Translators: Anthea Bell and Derek Hockridge • Typography: Bryony Newhouse • Co-ordination: Studio 'Et Cetera'

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GAULISH VILLAGE

COMPENDIUM

LAUDANUM

TOTORUM

AQUARIUM

LUTETIA

ARMORICA

GAUL

(ROMAN CONQUEST)

50 BC

CELTICA

AQUITANIA

PROVINCIA

THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY . . . ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF THE INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM . . .





ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX...



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND, A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE...

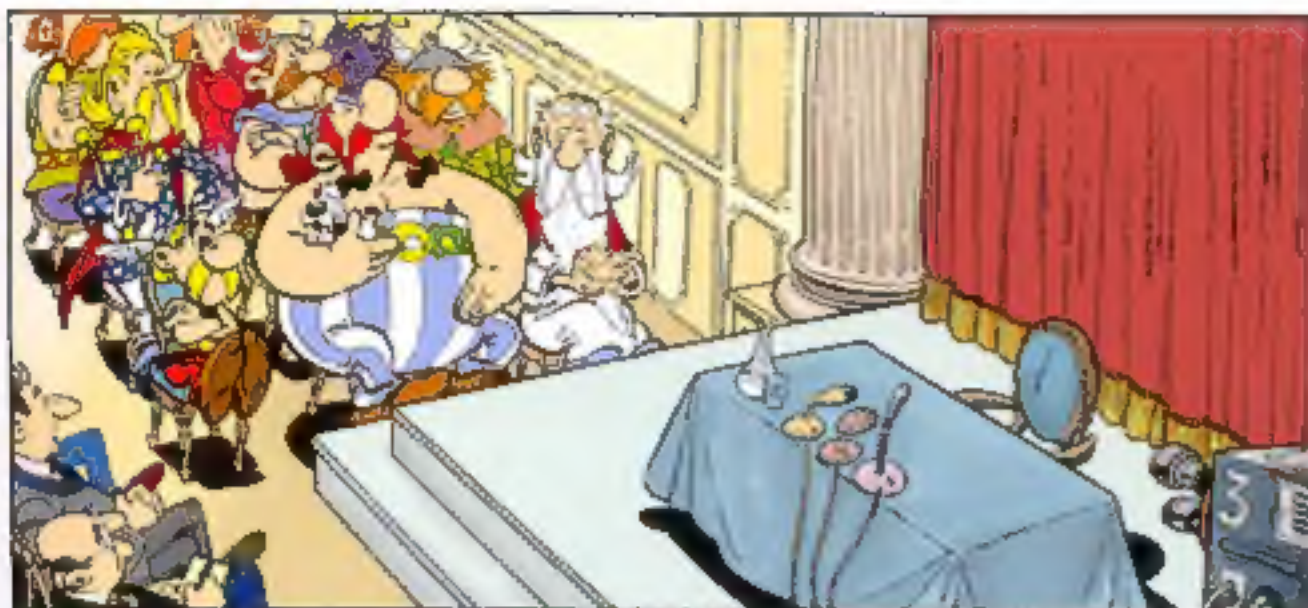


CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM...



FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.







## Asterix and the class act

06 October 1966

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

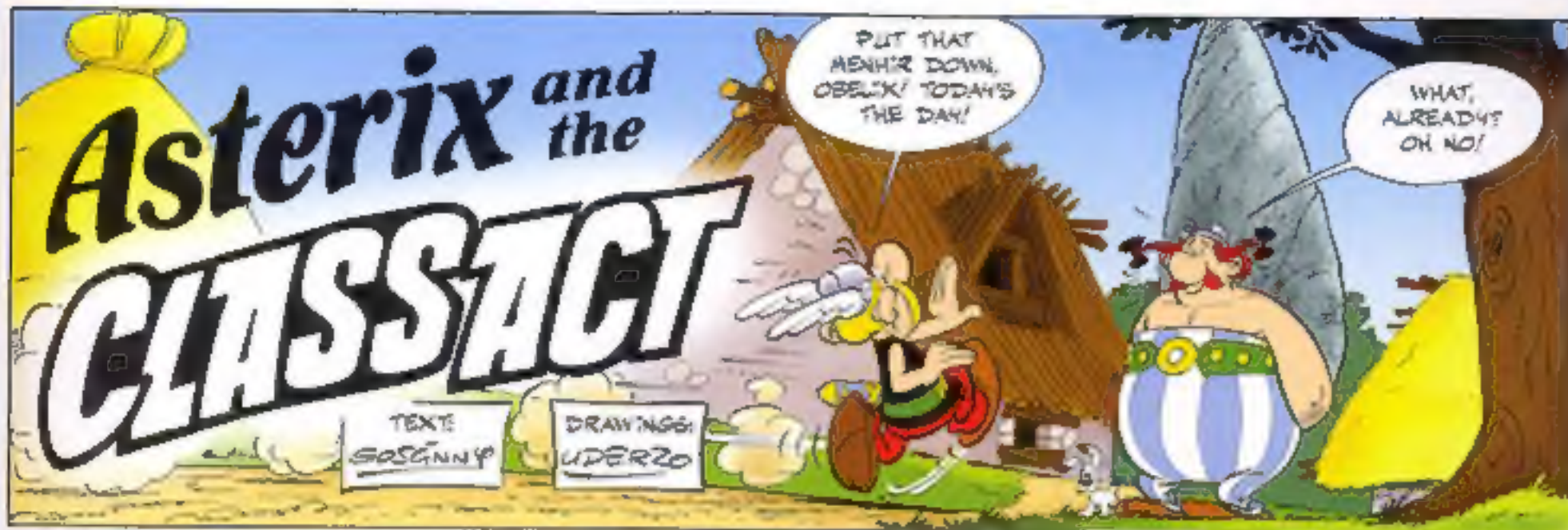
The magazine "Pilote" published 52 issues a year, so the editorial team had to rack its brains to think up new stories every week.

When the beginning of the new school year came round, it seemed an ideal subject. René and Albert thought about the logistical problems facing the Gauls in getting their children to school. Here we see them, rather in advance of their time, using the equivalent of the school bus in the year 50 BC. René sat down at his typewriter and soon sent Albert the text. "One of René's talents," Albert Uderzo still remembers, "was a gift for adapting his stories for different artists. Morris hated wordplay, so René didn't use it in the 'Lucky Luke' cowboy stories that Morris illustrated. Fabary, who illustrated René's stories about the wicked Arabian Nights vizier 'Iznogoud' loved puns, so those books are full of them." There was total sympathy and understanding between René and Albert, who were great friends and equal partners. They never felt the slightest anxiety about the quality of each other's work. The cover of the magazine "Pilote" was created by Albert.

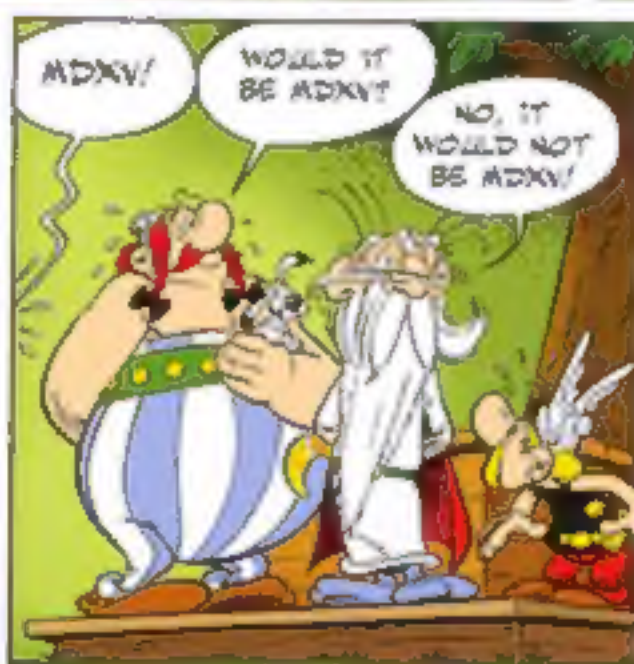
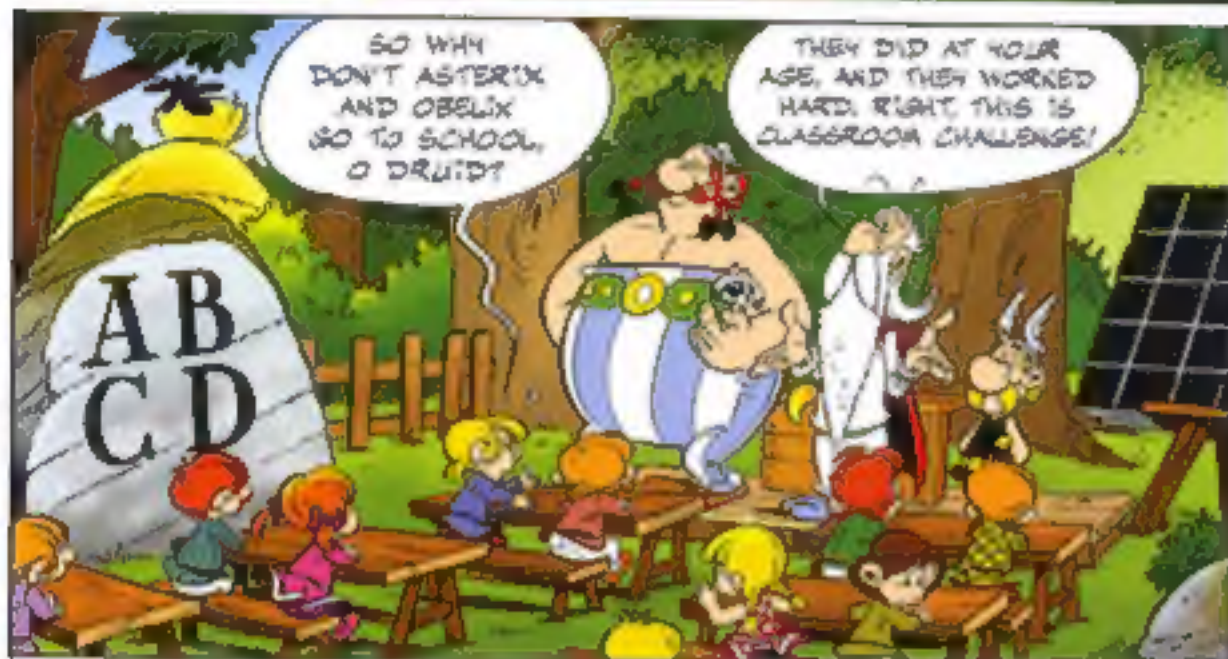
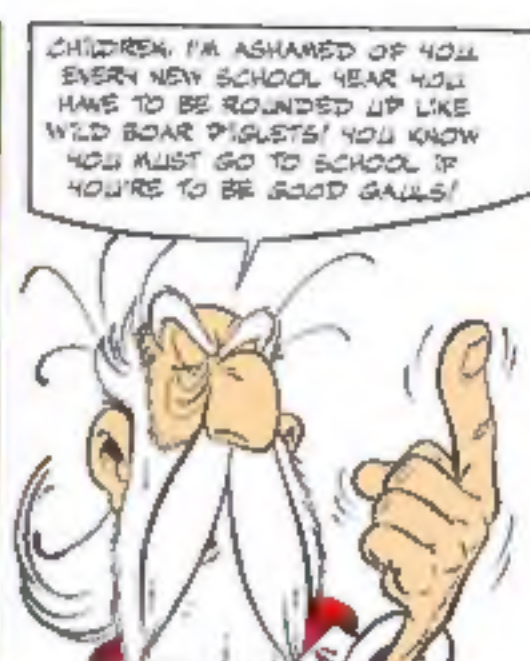
"Pilote" n° 363













# The birth of Asterix October 1994

Written and illustrated by Albert Uderzo



To celebrate 35 years of Asterix stories, we decided to publish an Asterix Special for the little Gaul's birthday, a one-off magazine in the spirit of "Pilote" in the 1960s. We got together famous names and European authors who wanted to pay tribute to Asterix and his friends. As part of our project, of course, we hoped for a new Asterix story.

It was in a plane bound for Copenhagen in the spring of 1994 that Albert Uderzo told us, with relish, about his idea for an original story to celebrate the birthday. He was already looking forward to revealing the secret of the birth of Asterix and Obelix, and at the same time he told us the names of the older generation: Asterix's parents Astronomix and Sarsaparilla, and Obelix's father and mother Obeliscoidix and Vanilla.

"Le Journal exceptionnel d'Astérix"

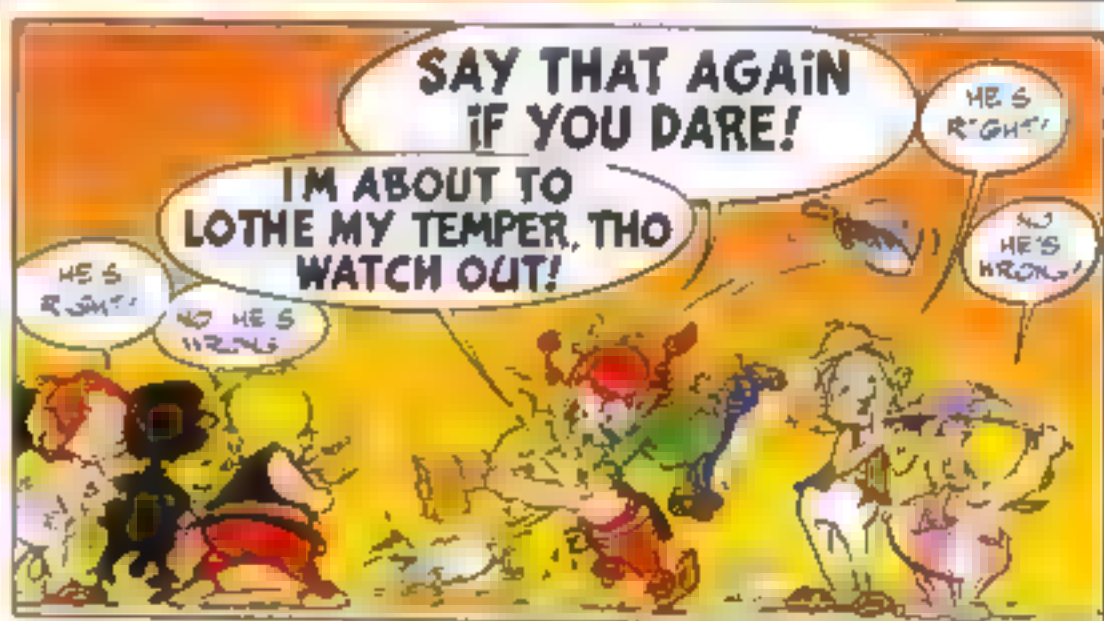




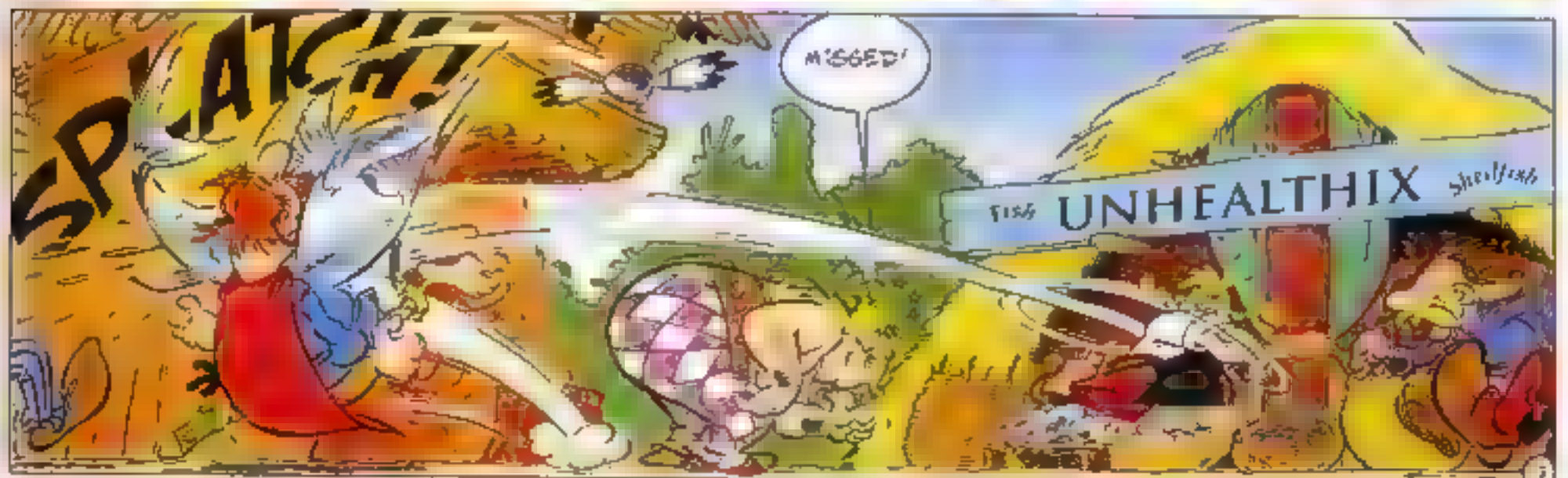
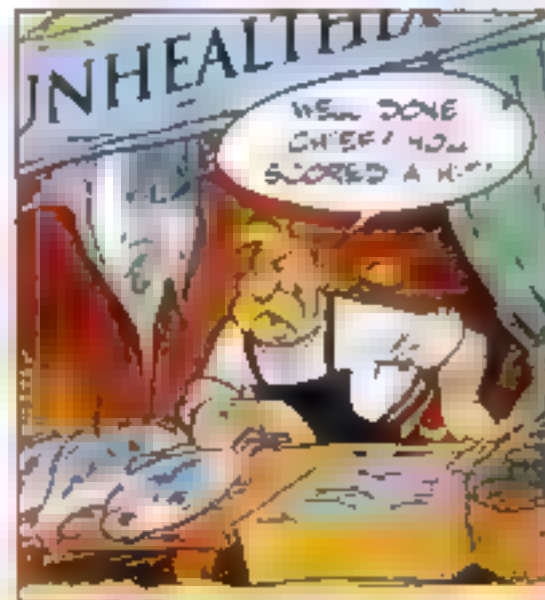
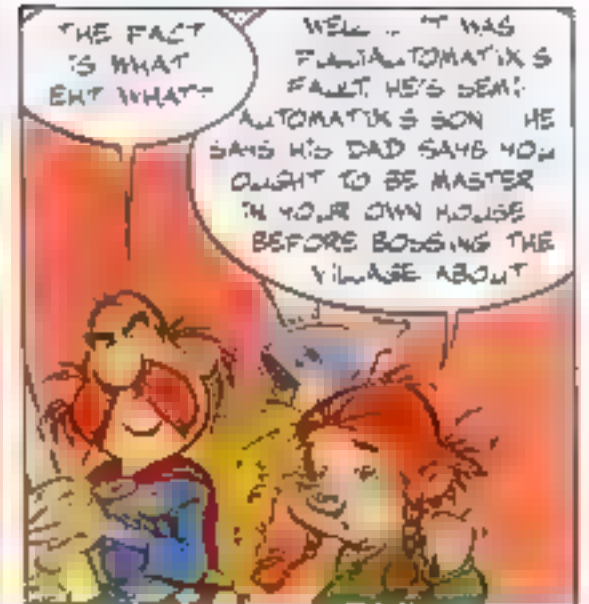
# IN THE year 35 B.C.\*

\* BEFORE CAESAR

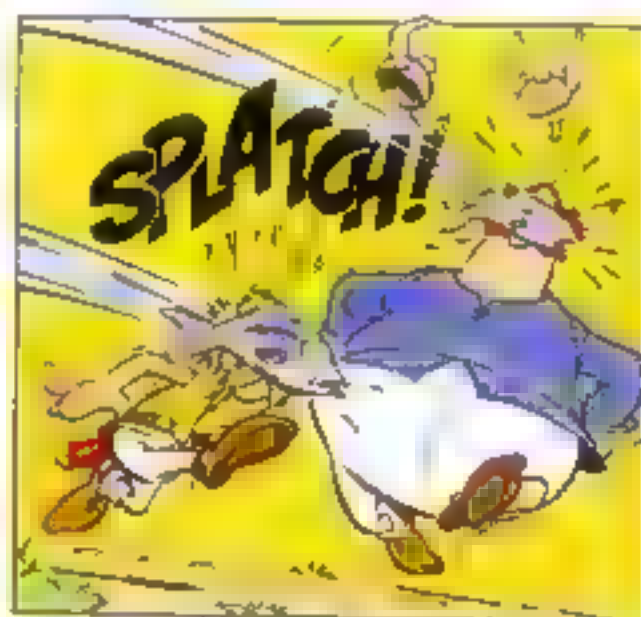
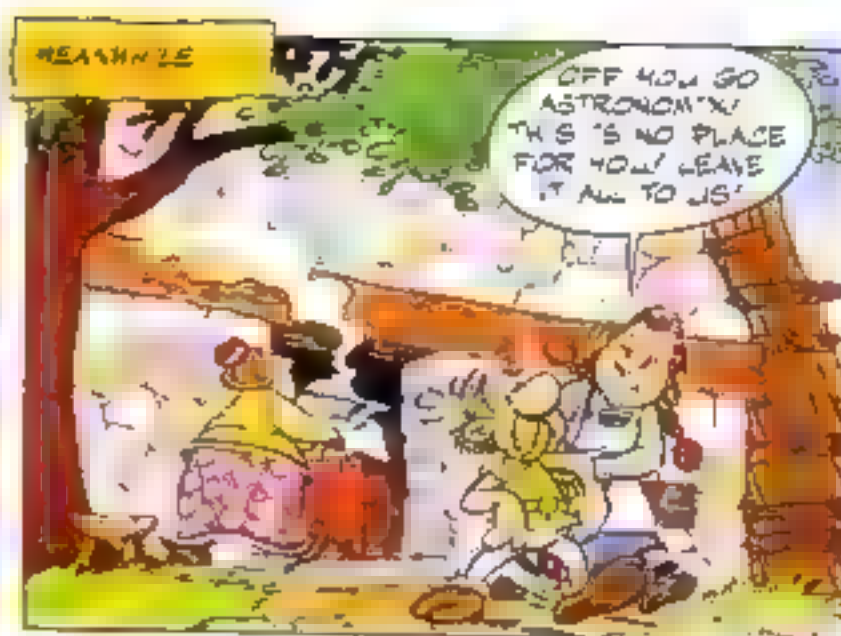
GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED - WITH ENJOYING A PERIOD OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY AND DOES NOT HOLD OUT AGAINST ANY OF ITS LIFE OF IT. SUCH WAS THE CASE IN ONE SMALL VILLAGE IN ARMORICA WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN LATER AFTER THE ROMAN CONQUEST



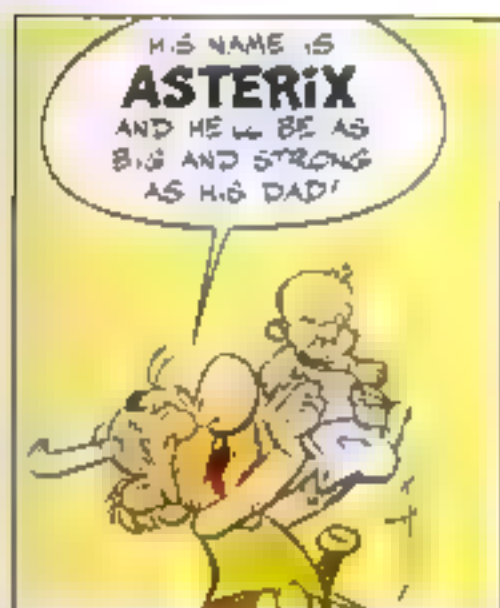
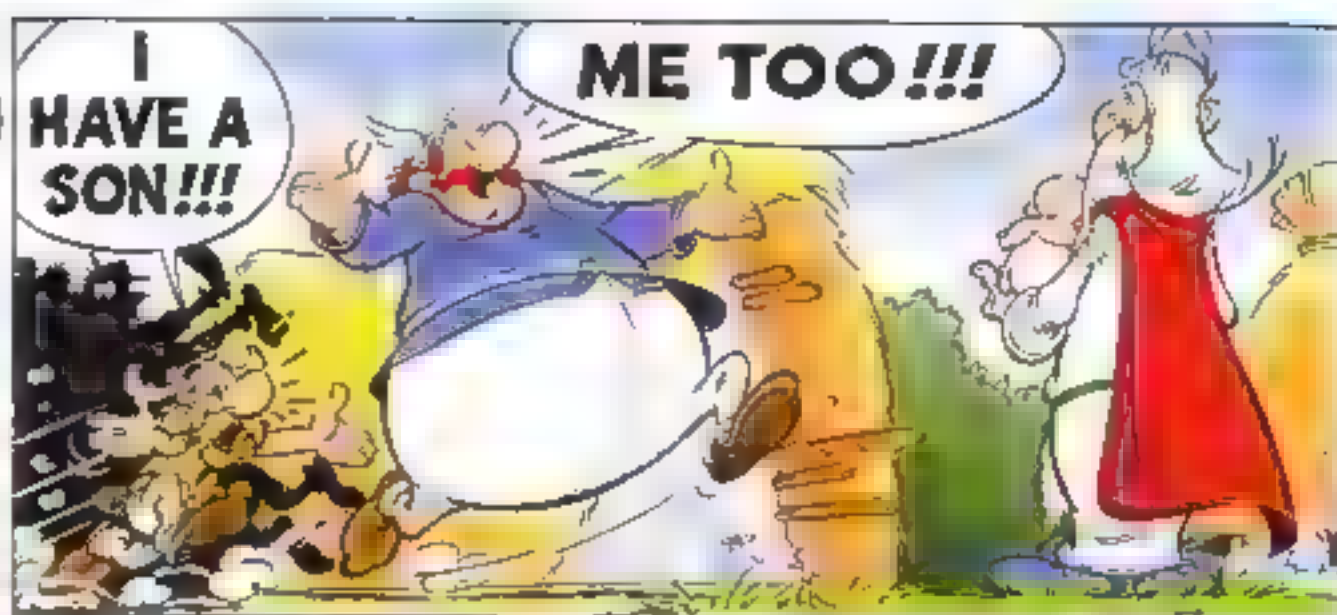














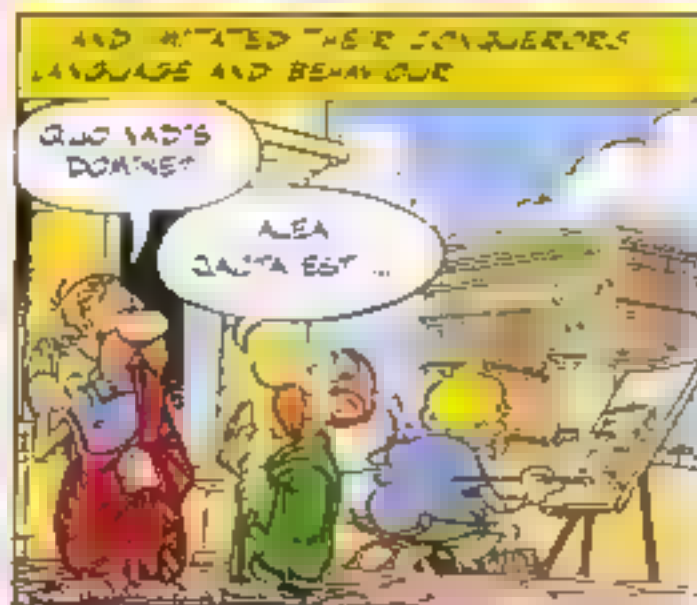
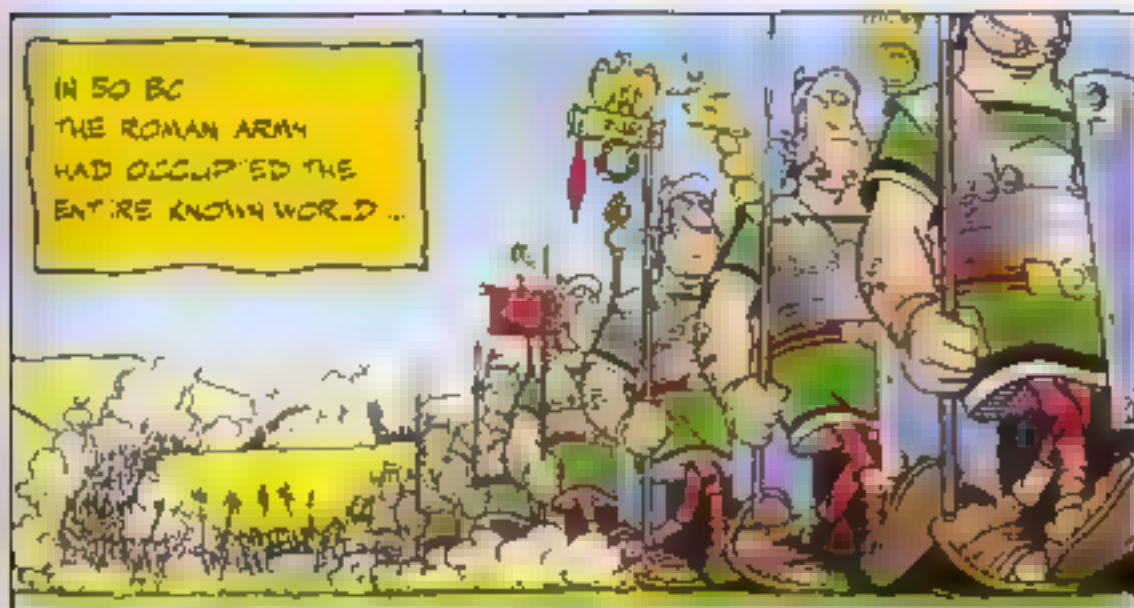


Georges Sargant, the publisher of "Pilote" and the Asterix books, wanted to see his leading series reach the American market. The head of an American syndicate visited Paris to meet the creators of the phenomenally successful character Asterix and they soon came to an agreement. An Asterix album would be published in daily instalments in a number of American papers. René and Albert were delighted but cautious, and thought it might be a good idea to present the world of Asterix to the Americans in an original condensed form, before embarking on the publication of a whole story. The result was these three pages, which for a long time were unknown even in France. Enjoy.

It was the famous "National Geographic" magazine that published them in May 1977 when it was running a major piece about the Gauls. However, the authors' efforts were unrewarded. Publication in American strip cartoon format meant reducing the size of the pictures which made it difficult to read the speech bubbles. As the authors did not want to have their original work modified beyond the adaptations usual in translation, the experiment ended after the first album — since René and Albert declined an offer for them to go and live in the USA so as to suit their work to the 'American format'.









ONE SUCH GROUP OF GAULS WAS HOLDING  
OUT IN A TINY VILLAGE ON THE WEST  
COAST OF THE COUNTRY



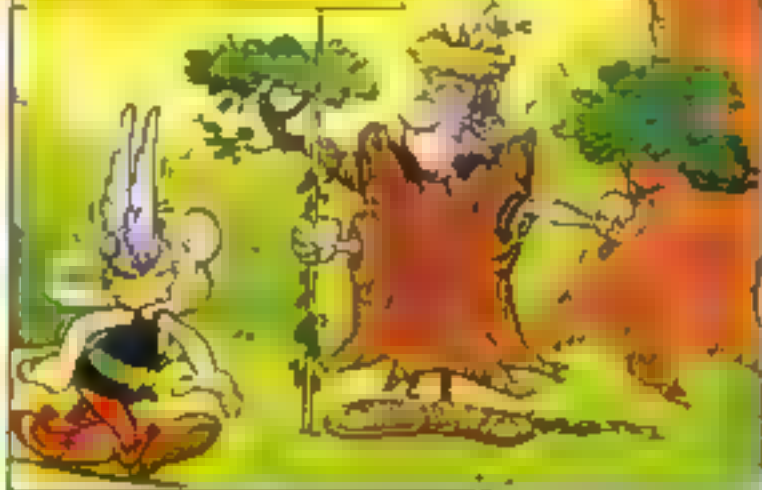
THE ROMANS KEPT A CLOSE WATCH  
ON THESE CHEERFUL GAULS, WHO  
LOVED A GOOD LAUGH



OF ALL THE LAUGH  
HARBORES ASTER X HAS  
THE MOST STELLER

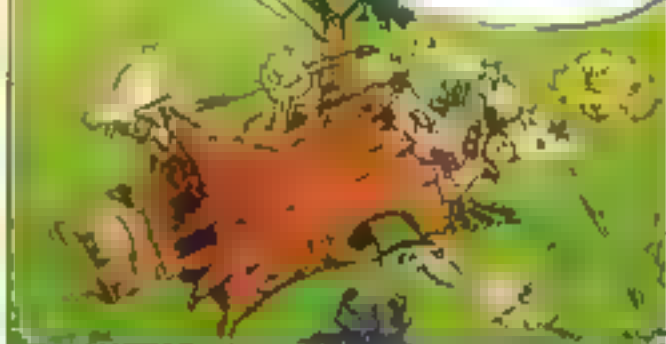


AND THE BEST  
AT UNMASKING  
ROMAN SPIES



BY JUPITER  
HOW'D HE SEE  
THROUGH MY CUNNING  
DISGUISE?

TOLD YOU  
OAK TREES DON'T  
SMELL OF GARLIC  
GEORGE



OBEL X A  
NEW R DELIVERY  
MAN BY TRADE  
IS ASTER X'S  
BEST FRIEND



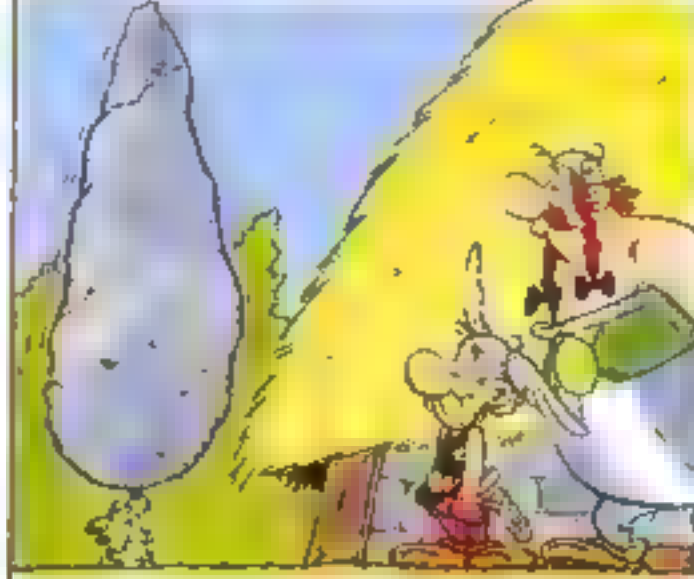
HISTORIANS HAVE NOT YET  
FOUNDED OUT WHAT MEN ARE  
HERE ACTUALLY FOR



AND AS FOR THE USE OBEL X OFTEN  
MAKES OF THEM, THE ROMANS AS WELL  
AS HISTORIANS ARE AT CROSS PURPOSES



LOOK ASTER X!  
I'VE TAUGHT DOGMAT X  
A NEW TRICK



THIS MAY SEEM STRANGE  
BUT REMEMBER THAT DOGS  
B-SIDE'S HAD NOT YET BEEN  
INVENTED A SO ON





AS THE OTHER VILLAGERS  
DOGMATX GETS HIS ARMS  
STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION  
BROUGHT BY THE DRUID JEREX



THIS MAGIC POTION HAS A SPECTACULAR  
EFFECT ON THE GAULS

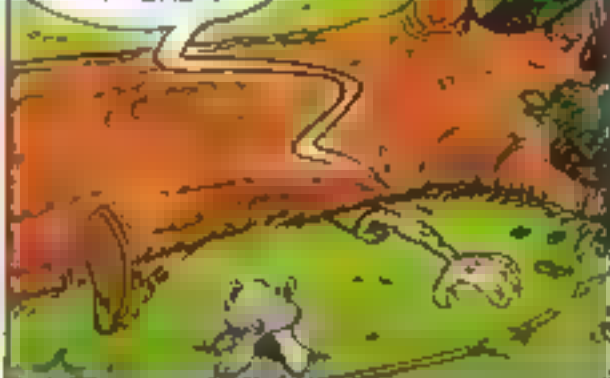
YOU KNOW DOGMATX  
HATES PEOPLE TO Pull  
UP TREES

BUT ONLY SAYS  
IT A TAY TAD!



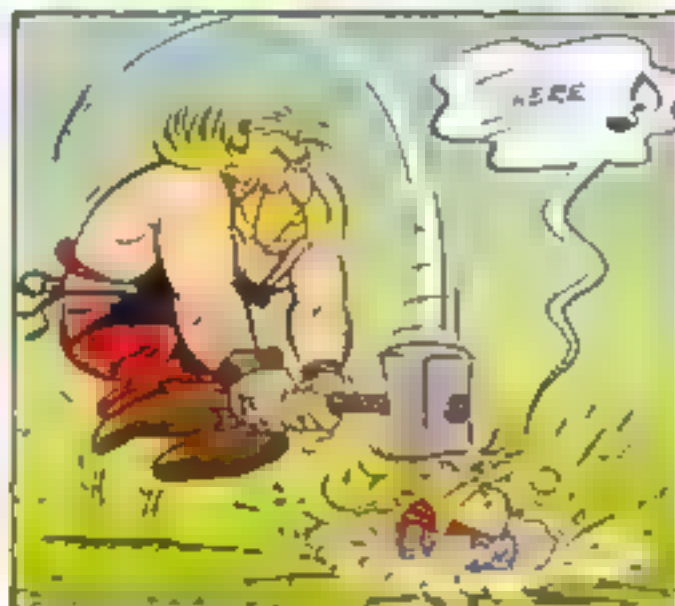
AND  
THE ROMANS DO

BY JUPITER  
THAT GAULISH  
BREW TAKES  
A PLUCK



THE BARD JACOFON X IS  
ANOTHER PROMINENT VILLAGER

ON TO BE IN  
ARMORICA NOW  
THAT APRIL



AND SO IS  
RUMOR THAT THE  
BLACKSMITH HAD AS  
ALSO PROBABLY THE  
INVENTOR OF ALL  
MACHINERY



THE VILLAGER CHIEF IS THE  
MALESTO V TALLSTATIN



THERE'S NO  
DISCIPLINE IN THIS  
VILLAGES ANY MORE  
NO RESPECT! YOU ARE  
ALL TO BOW TO ME AND  
MY AUTHORITY!



BUT CHECK  
YOU SAID YOURSELF...

I WANTED  
THE OTHERS  
TO BOW,  
YOU FOOLS,  
NOT YOU!



AS THERE IS NOTHING THE ROMANS  
CAN DO ABOUT THE SUPERHUMAN  
STRENGTH OF THE GAULISH VILLAGERS

BY JUPITER TO THINK  
THERE'S XVIII YEARS TO GO  
BEFORE I'M DEMOBBED!



THE GAULS OR MOST  
OF THEM REMAIN FREE  
AND HAPPY





# Chanticleerix August 2003

*Written and illustrated by Albert Uderzo*

Never before published, this five-page story was finished in May 2013 and is about the village cockerel. It adds to Albert Uderzo's carnival of animals. He has always been particularly fond of chickens. Every Asterix album contains hens and cockerels leading their pride and obviously harmonious family lives in the corners of the pictures. The idea for this story came from a projected film spin-off. With René Goscinny, Albert Uderzo once planned a pilot for an animated cartoon film starring Dagmatix — a rarity which has remained unknown. But when he looked at it again 30 years later, Albert thought he would like to write a new story about the birds who share the village with the indomitable Gauls. You might think that the magical forest of Broceliande, not far from the Gaulish village, had given them new powers — but don't tell Obelix!

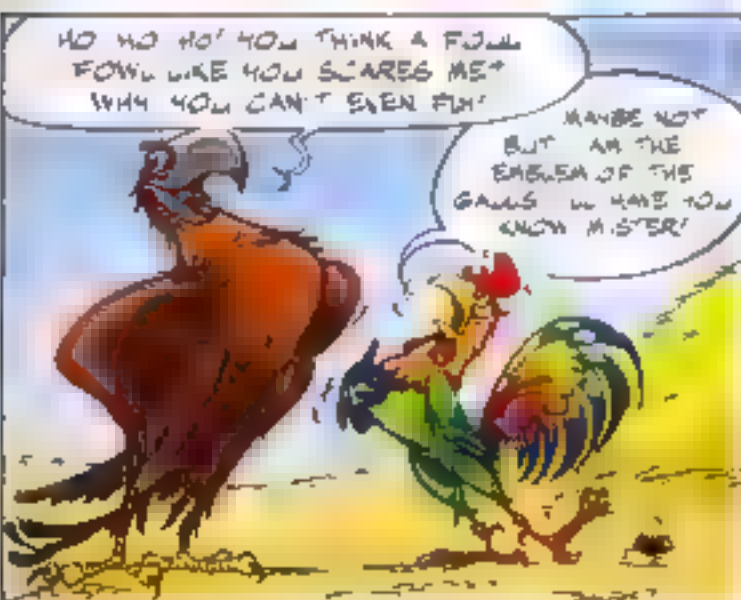


Gaulish  
Cockerel

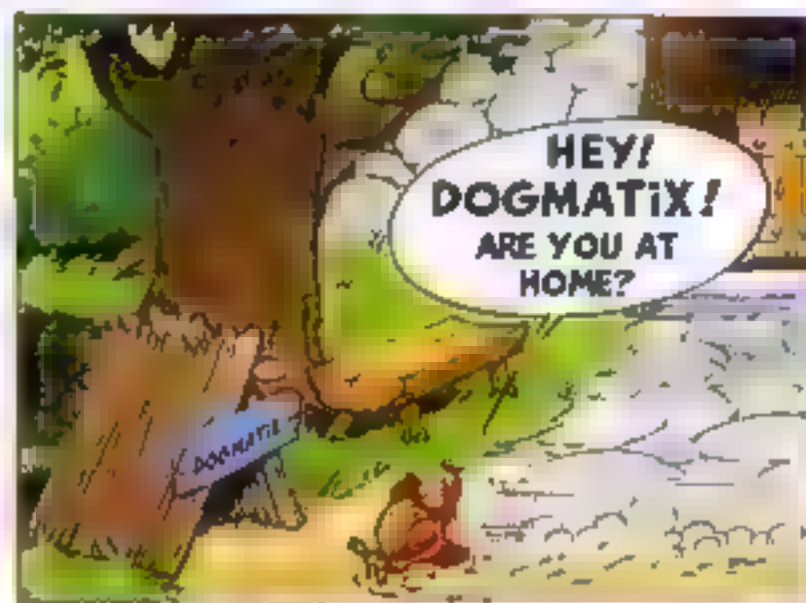
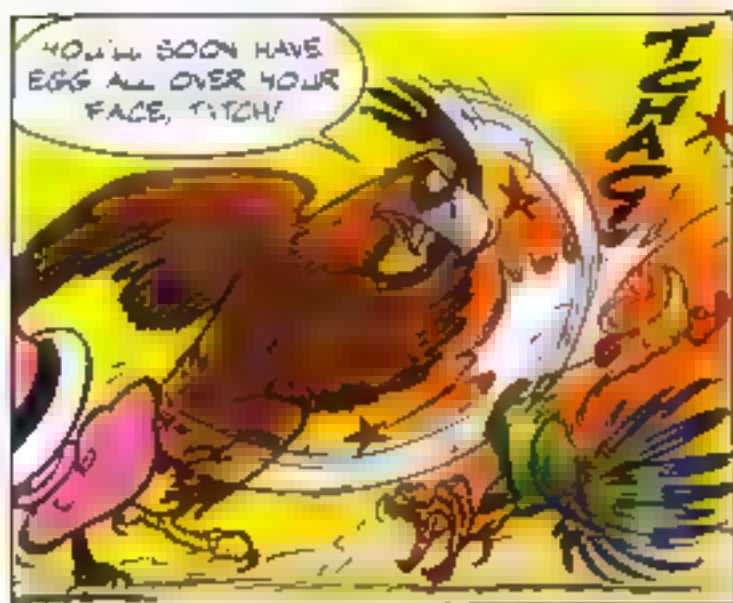


# CHANTICLEER THE Gaulish Cockerel

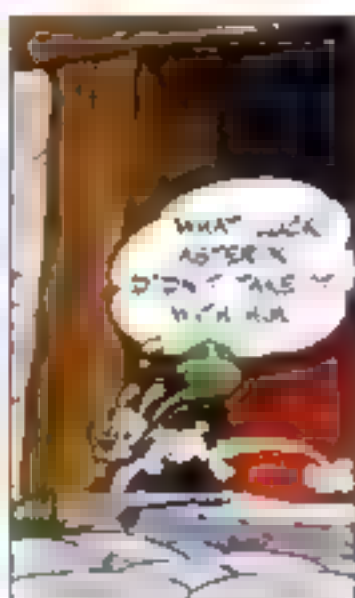
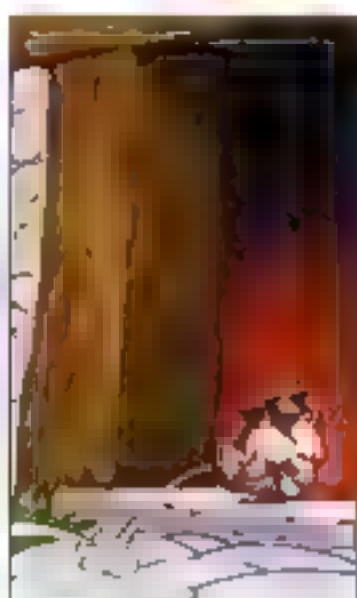
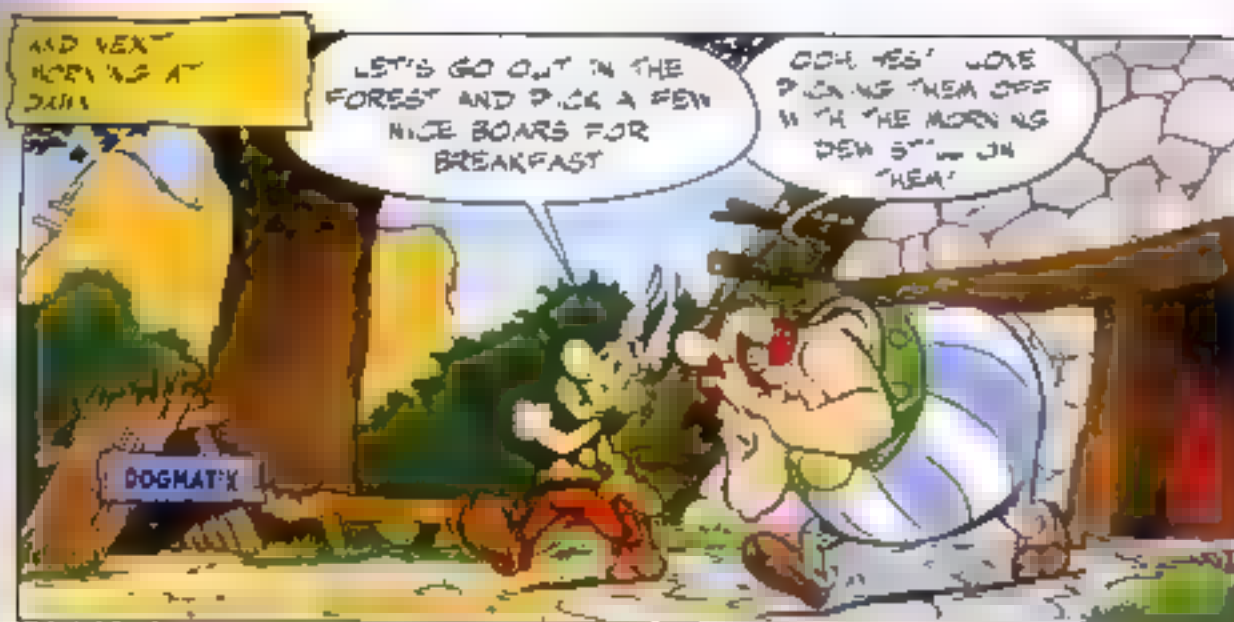
IT IS OFTEN  
THOUGHT THAT  
ANIMALS HAVE  
THEIR OWN  
LANGUAGE AND  
UNDERSTAND  
EACH OTHER. WE  
SEE THE PROOF  
OF IT IN THE  
FOLLOWING STORY  
WHICH BEGINS IN  
THE SKIES OF  
AERONA JUST  
ABOVE A LITTLE  
VILLAGE THAT WE  
KNOW WELL.



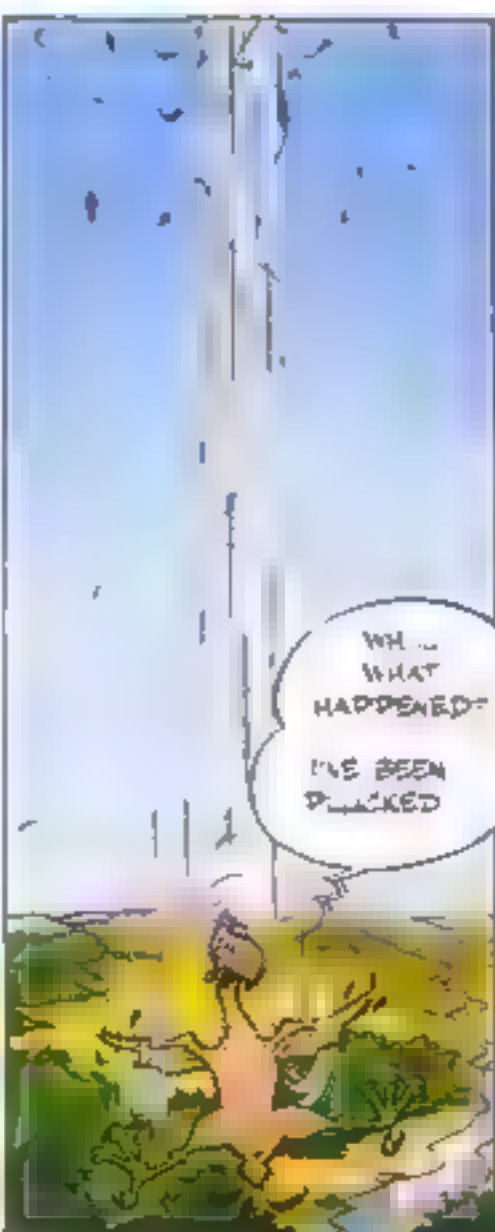
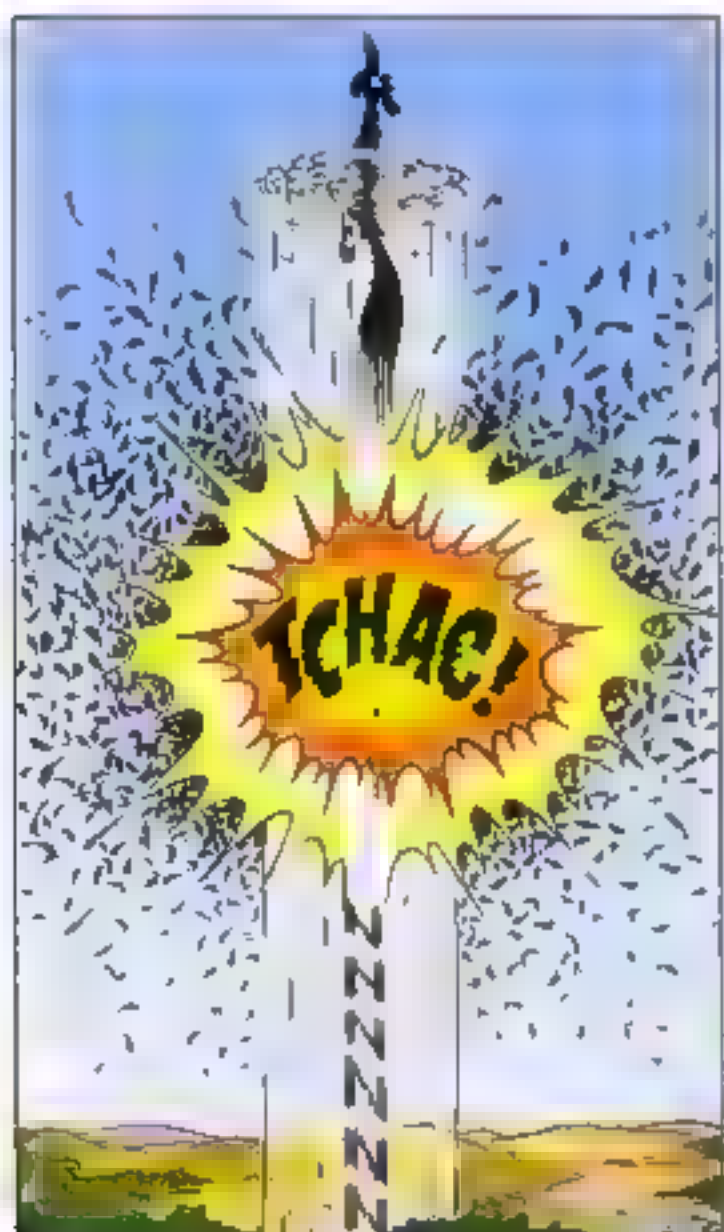
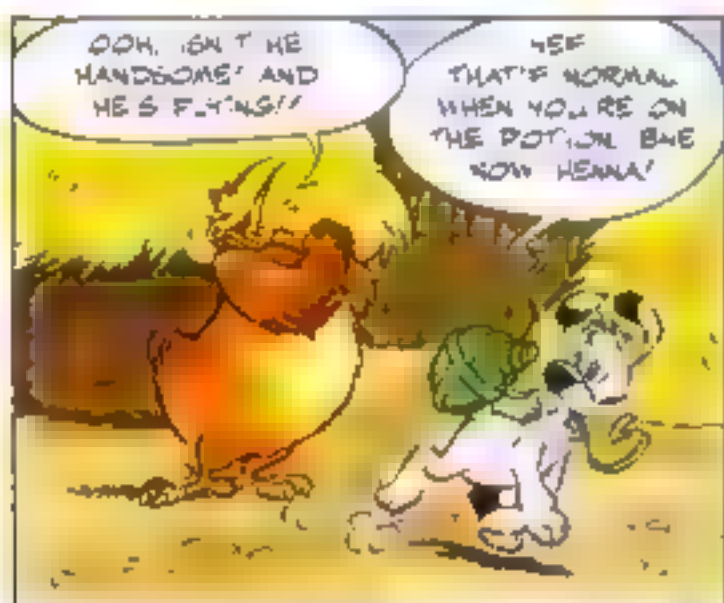
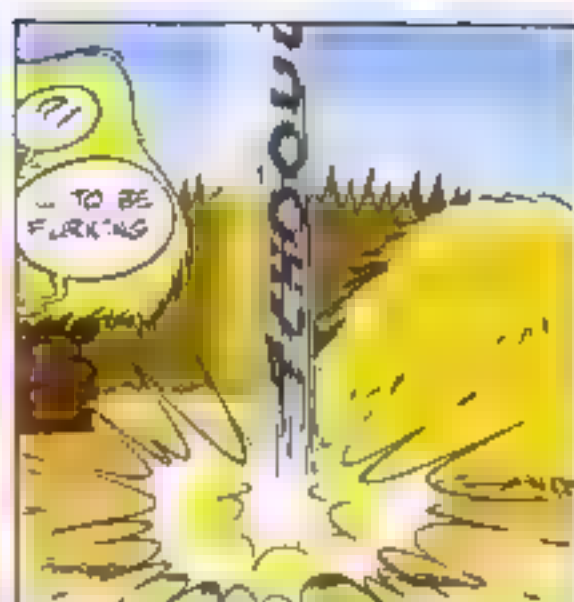
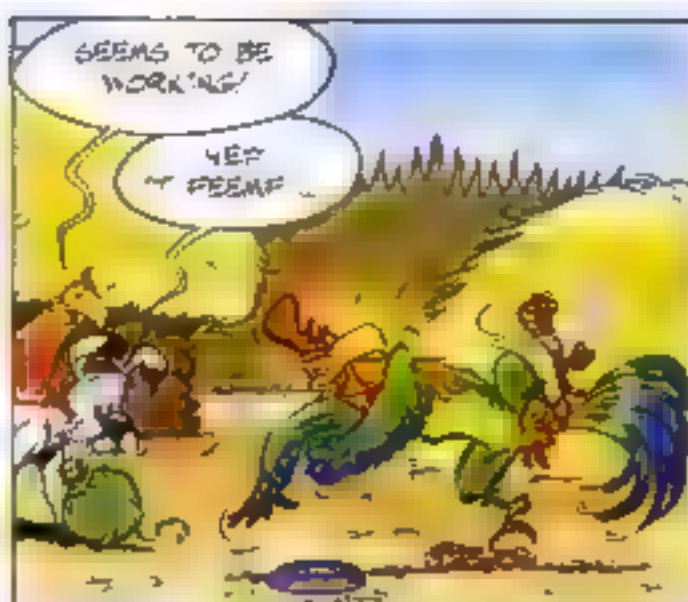


















Illustrated by  
Albert Uderzo

This time René thought it would be a good idea if the Gauls joined in. He suggested to Albert reinventing an old custom dating back to Druid traditions. Kissing under the mistletoe. In "Astérix the Legionary" Obélix fell in love with the beautiful Panacea, so the authors enjoyed going back to the subject. This time Obélix actually dares to try snatching a kiss, a very unusual situation for him... but a skilful move thanks to his

intentions. In condensed form, this story expresses all René Gossinay's delicacy of feeling and sense of humour, and the tender, beautiful line of Albert Uderzo's drawing.



"Pilote", n° 424



# for Gaul Lang Syne

UNDER 20  
&  
GOING

THE ANCIENT  
Gauls HAD SOME  
CHARMING NEW  
YEAR CUSTOMS

WHEN TWO GAULS MET UNDER THE  
HOLLY TREE THEY KISSED EACH OTHER



IN FACT IT WAS  
COMPULSORY FOR GAULS  
TO KISS WHEN THEY MET

BUT I  
HATE SINGING,  
SO I...

SINGING!  
YOU COULD HAVE  
FOOLED ME!  
WELL THAT WAS  
YOUR KISS!



THERE ARE  
EVEN WATERS HERE  
WHERE YOU CAN  
DRINK

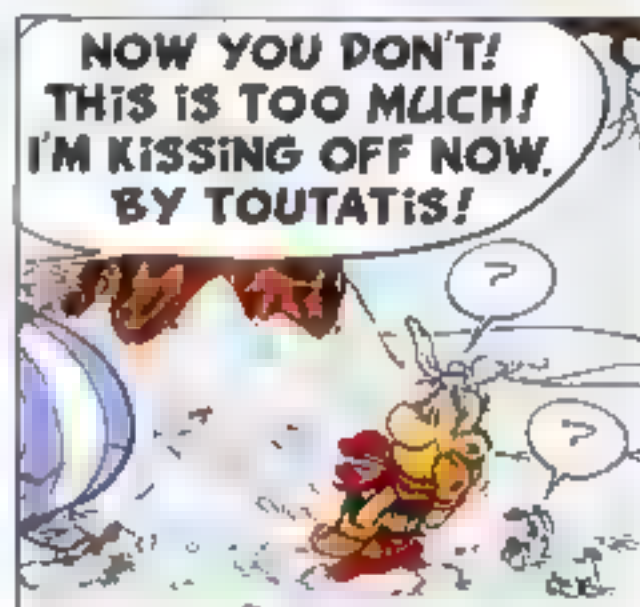
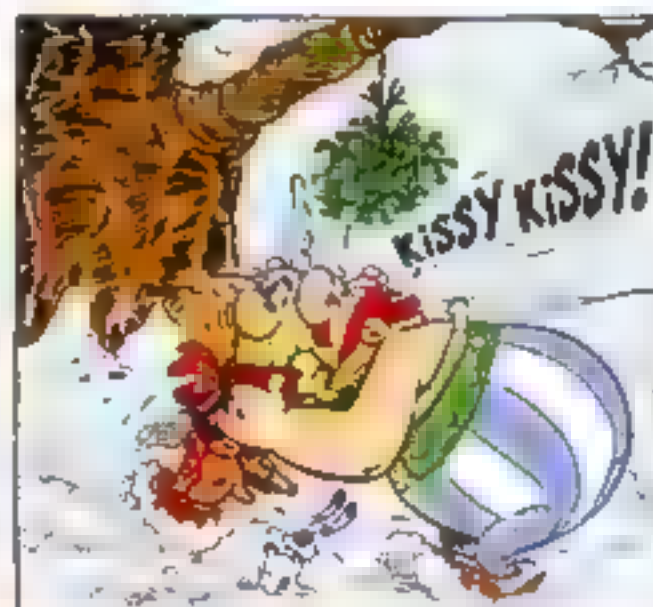
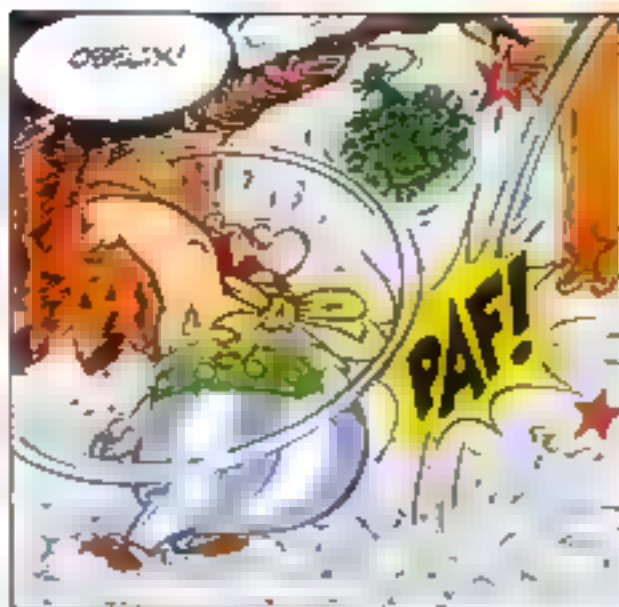
GO AND PLAY  
DOGMATIN! GO ON  
PLAY WITH ASTER X  
A BUSH THIS IS NOT  
FOR THE EYES OF  
THE DOGS



BUT SOME WISE MEN  
SAID THAT YOU CAN  
DRINK A HEALTHY  
BUSH









# Mini Midi Maxi

02 August 1971

Written by  
René Goscinny

Illustrated by  
Albert Uderzo

In view of the huge success of Asterix and his friends, the weekly magazine "Elle" asked the authors to provide a story on a women's subject for one of their summer issues.

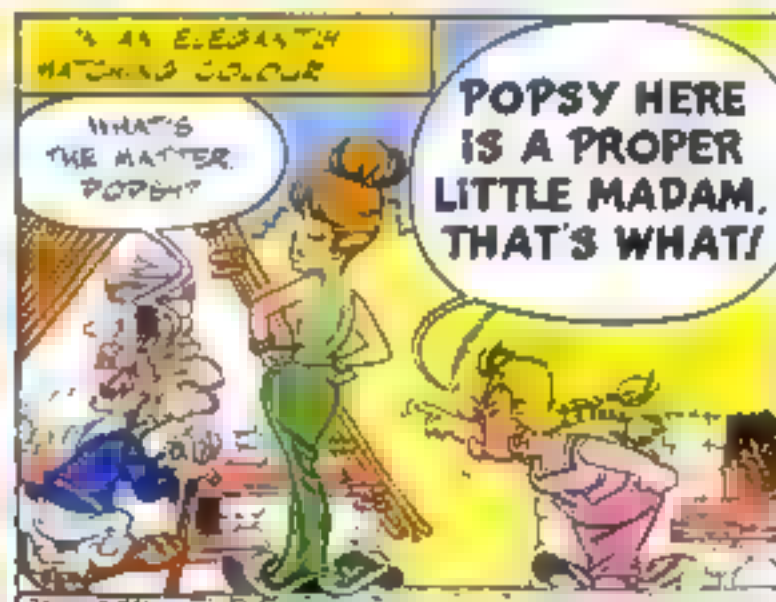
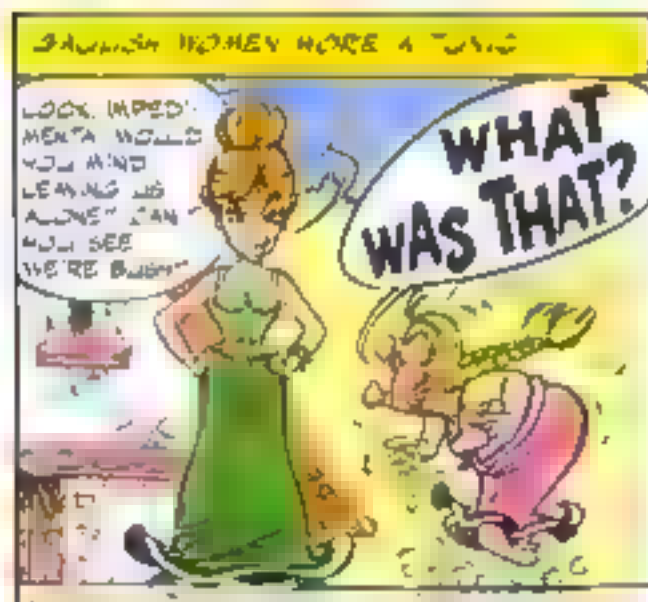
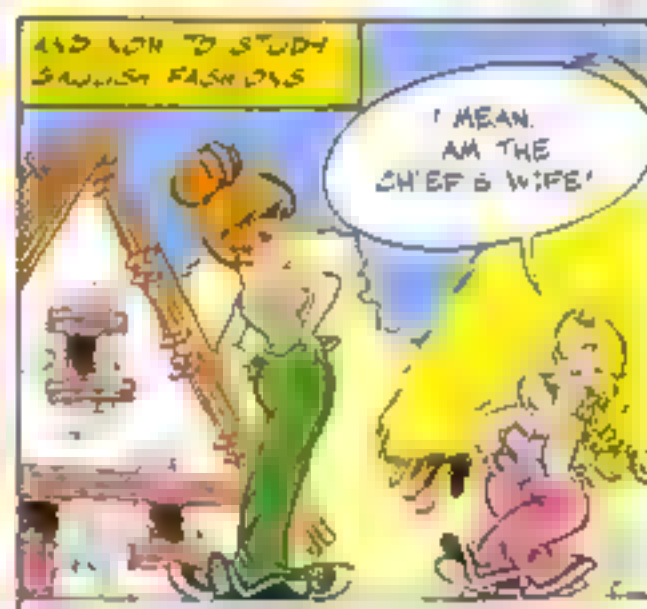
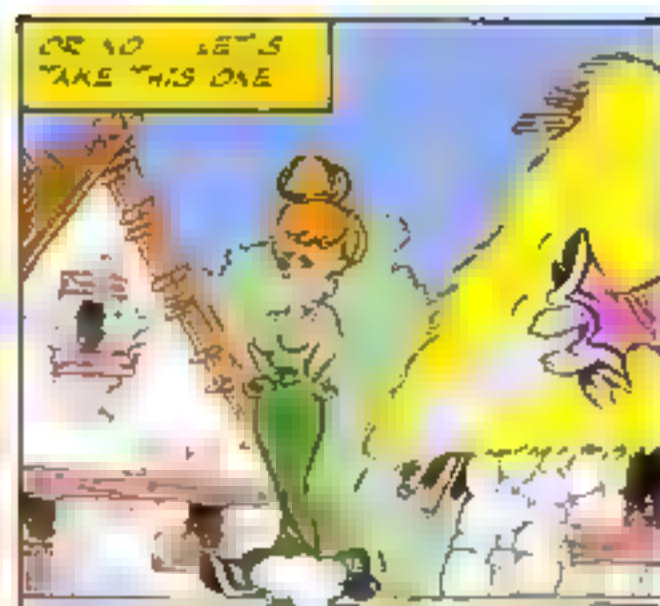
Although it is true that the village of indomitable Gauls is rather a male society, the authors progressively introduced heroines into the story as regular characters, for instance Impedimenta the chief's wife, Mrs Geriatrix (the star of this two-page story), Panacea and Cleopatra.

So it would be wrong to call the authors of the Asterix books anti-feminist! In fact women play a much more important part than in many other famous series! And if the humour sometimes gently mocks them, it certainly doesn't spare the men either. Look at the rather unflattering pictures of Chief Vitalstatistix, Unhygienix the fishmonger or Fulliautumatix the village blacksmith! Thank you!

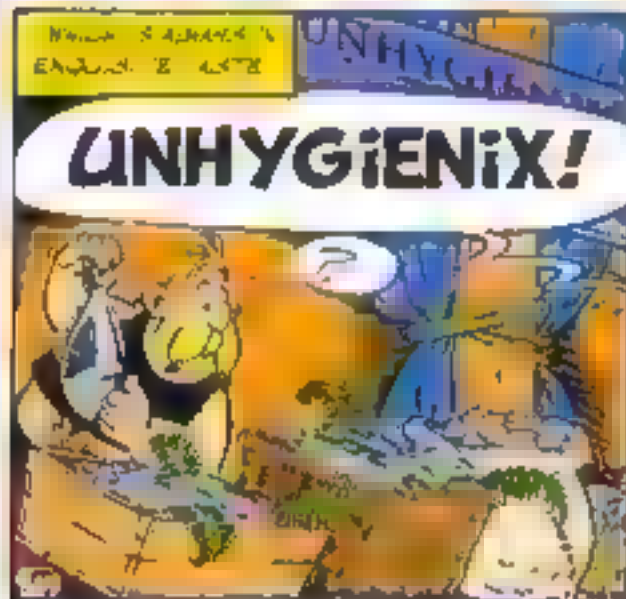
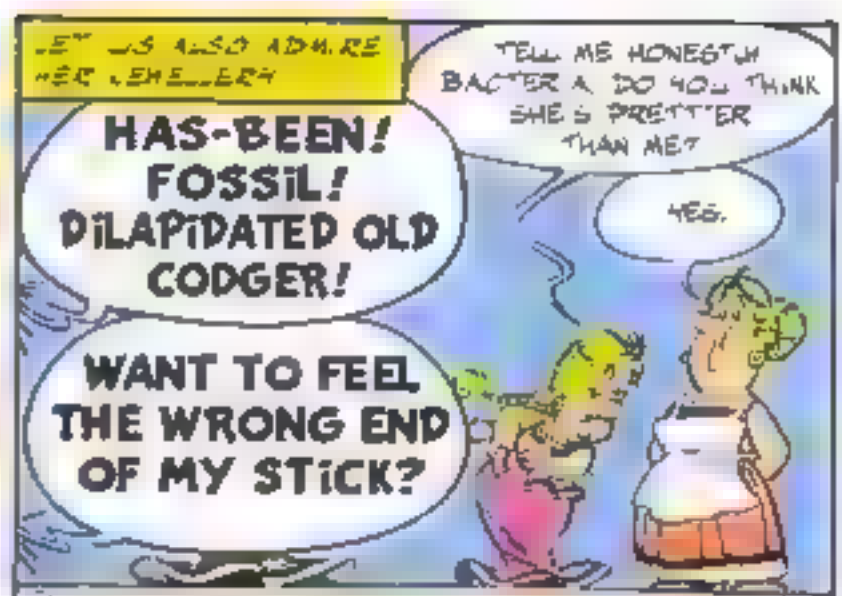
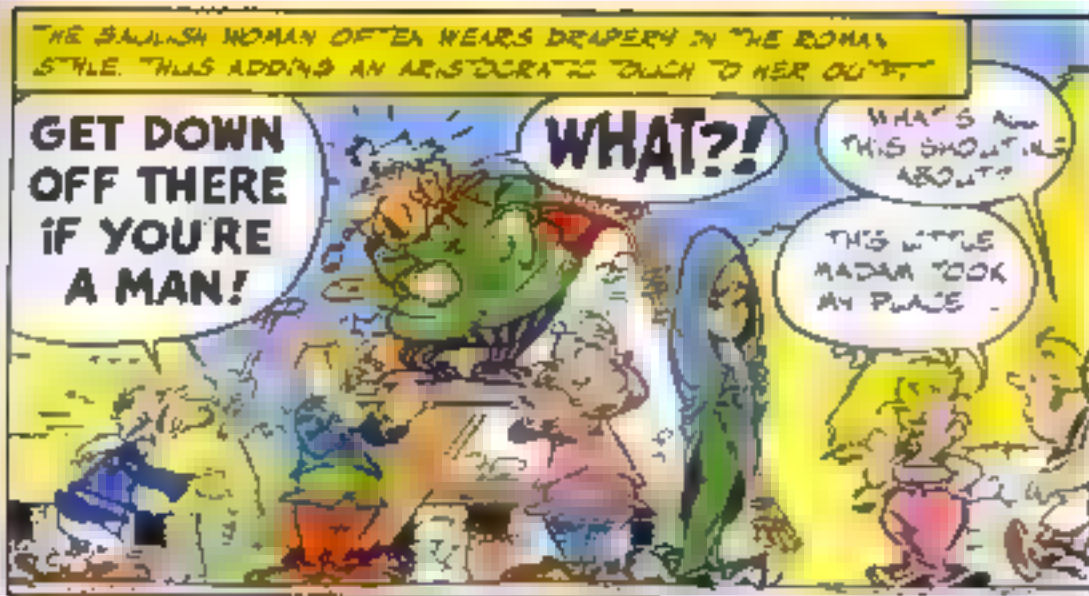




IT HAS OFTEN BEEN CLAIMED THAT THE ANCIENT GAULS WERE BARBARANS NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH VERGINESE OR HIS PROUD WARRIORS UNDERSTOOD CIVILIZED REFINEMENT AND THEIR LOVELY LADY FRIENDS DIDN'T BOTHER WITH ALL THAT LOUD MOUTHED VANDIVID VIVID STUFF THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN THE QUESTION OF MINI MID OR MAX





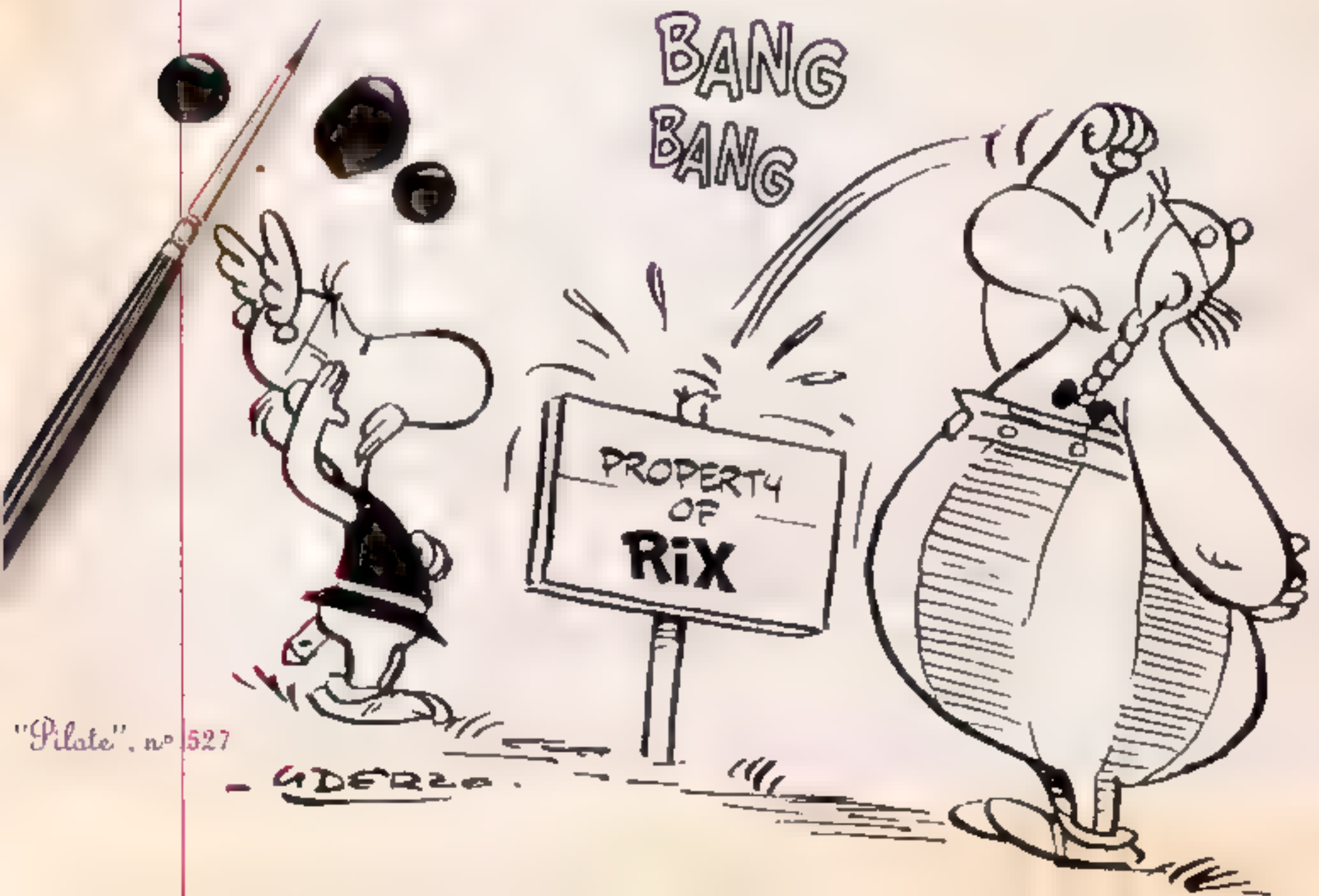




Asterix as you have  
never seen him before ...  
**11 December 1969**

René Goscinny - Albert Uderzo

These three pages of anthology pieces, which have kept all their force and originality, are very much in the spirit of "Pilote" magazine in the 1960s. The texts make their points tellingly and are very funny while the drawing - or rather drawings - show a breathtaking mastery of many different graphic styles. How can an artist change his own style to caricature other slap cartoon illustrators so cleverly? There is a touch of the famous (American) "Mad" magazine here. The author has fun showing us what his imagination has come up with - for by agreement with René Goscinny, Albert both wrote and drew these three amazing pages by himself. A treat to be (re)discovered.





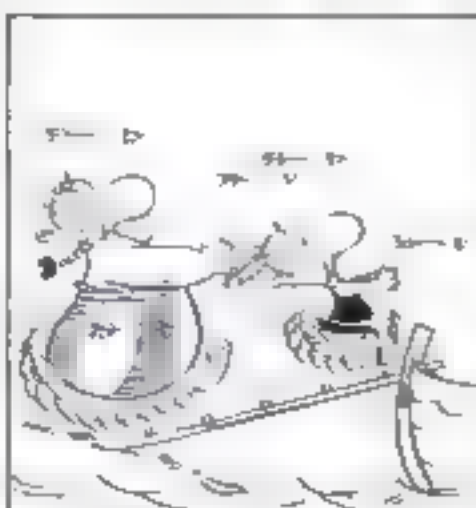
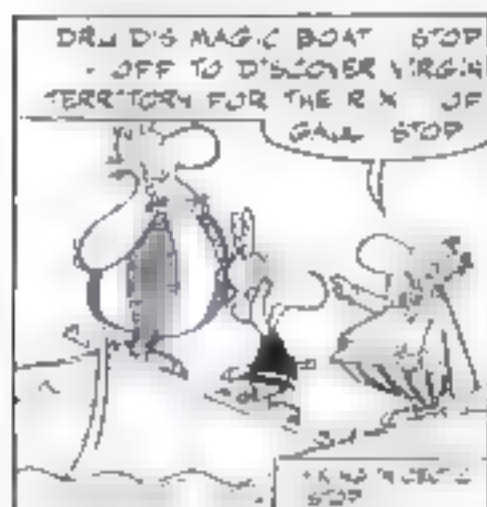
SINCE THE BIRTH OF ASTERIX, MANY OF OUR READERS AND CERTAIN SPECIALIST STRIP CARTOON MAGAZINES, NOT TO MENTION THE CRITICS, HAVE SUGGESTED IDEAS TO US. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR KIND CONTRIBUTIONS, AND WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO ADAPT ASTERIX IN LINE WITH SOME OF THEIR SUGGESTIONS.

## SUGGESTION 1

"WHY DON'T YOU LIKE YOU KNOW HAVE THE DRUID INVENTING MODERN GADGETS? THE CHARACTERS DON'T TALK LIKE NATURAL AND EVEN WORSE THE DRAWINGS JUST FOR KIDS LIKE MICKEY MOUSE STUFF SIGNED. A PAL"

## SUGGESTION 2

"STORIES TOO LONG - STOP - TOO MUCH DIALOGUE - STOP - NOT ENOUGH SIMPLICITY IN DRAWING - STOP - WHY NOT TAKE ASTERIX TO AMERICA'S STOP - SIGNED PROFESSOR HEDDY UNIVERSITY OF NANTES"









## SUGGESTION 5

I'D LIKE TO SEE ASTERIX A BIT MORE "TRENCHY" & PSYCHEDELIC AS TERX FOR INSTANCE AND WHY DON'T WOMEN FEATURE MORE IN YOUR STORIES? YOU'RE NOT AN "ANTI-FEMINIST" ARE YOU? MY FRIENDS SIGNED A PETITION

THANKS TO THE DRUID'S MAGIC FLOWERS WE CAN NOW DO A PROPER JOB OF FIGHTING THE WILD WOMEN WARRIORS LED BY PROCONSULUS DEODORA OBELIX!



WE HAVE ONLY TO BRING THEM DOWN WITH THESE FLOWERS SO GET AFX TOLD ME WATCH OUT! THEY'RE ATTACKING!



IF YOU ASK ME ASTERIX THIS ISN'T AS MUCH FUN AS A GOOD PUNCH-UP

WE HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A LOT OF CRITICISM AS THE ONLY COMIC WHERE THE CHARACTERS ARE NOT OUR OWN. IT'S A QUESTION OF WHETHER WE WHICH WAS SUDDENLY CAME TO US A DARING IDEA WE AGREE BUT ALL THE SAME WE KNOW OUR CHARACTERS WELL I MEAN WE MADE THEM UP DIDN'T WE? SO WE HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE IDEAS TOO OH YES WE DO! OH REALLY, WE DON'T BELIEVE IT! SHUT UP! WE'RE FREE AGENTS, AREN'T WE? VERY WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU LOT FEEL, IN FUTURE ASTERIX AND OBELIX WILL WEAR PLUS-FOURS...

**HONESTLY!  
I MEAN, I ASK  
YOU! THESE  
AUTHORS  
ARE  
CRAZY!**





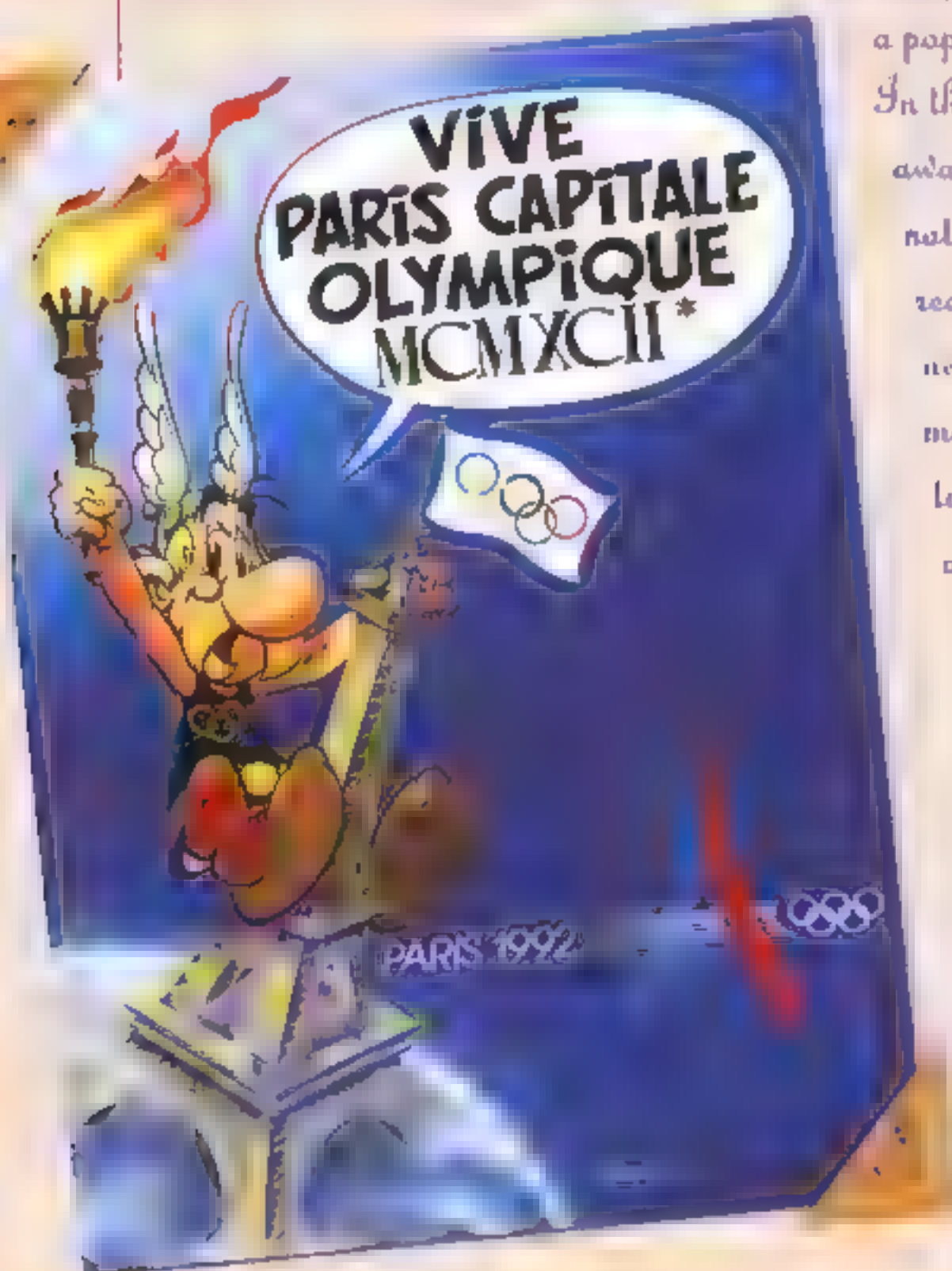
# The Lutetia Olympics 25 October 1986

drawn and illustrated by Ulderzo

In the mid-1980s the mayor of Paris turned to Asterix for help in its Olympic bid. Jacques Chirac and his municipal team wanted Paris (the former city of Lutetia) to stage the (LP) 1992 Games.

Ulderzo was asked to create a poster and a small four-page strip cartoon story to win support from the Parisian tribe of Lutetia. He liked the idea, and designed a poster which went up all over the capital in 1986. The story was published in "Jours de France",

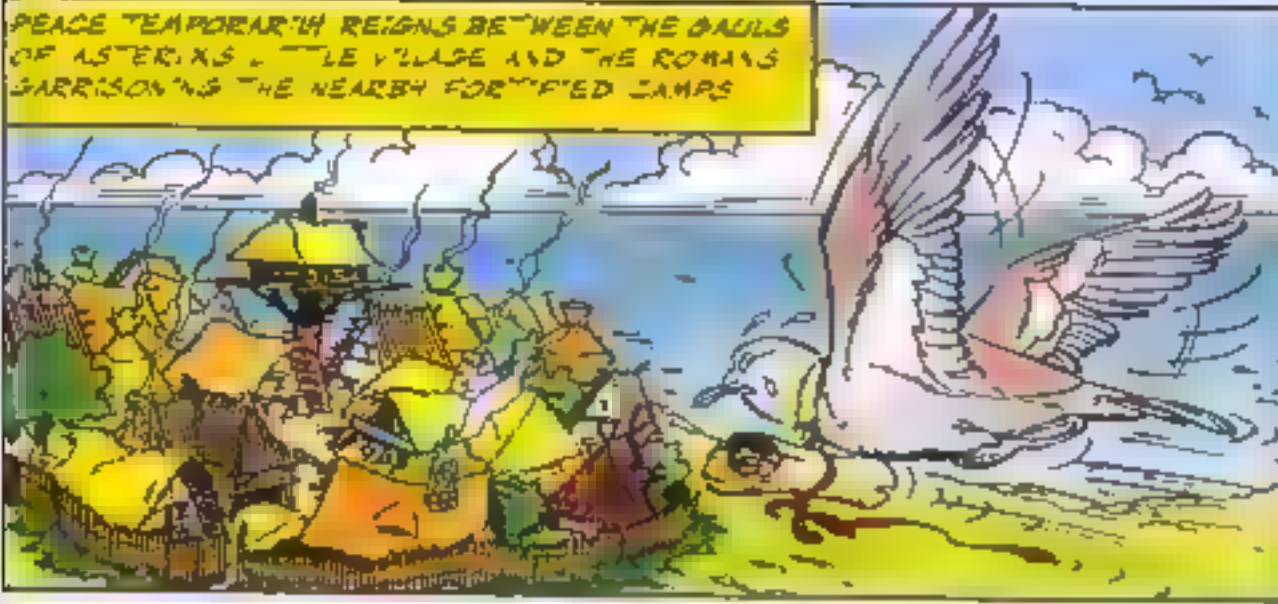
a popular magazine of the last century. In the end the Olympic Committee did not award the Games to Paris, but obviously not everyone lost out, since just for the record, the original of the poster was never returned to the artist! But never mind: here you can see the Eiffel Tower turned into a huge, magnificent dovecote, and a really nasty villain is added to the rogues' gallery of the Asterix stories.



"Jours de France", n°1660



PEACE TEMPORARILY REIGNS BETWEEN THE GAULS OF ASTERIX'S VILLAGE AND THE ROMAN GARRISON IN THE NEARBY FORTIFIED CAMPS



A MESSAGE BY EXPRESS CARRIER! LET US BEND...



OUR MINDS TO ITS CONTENTS!

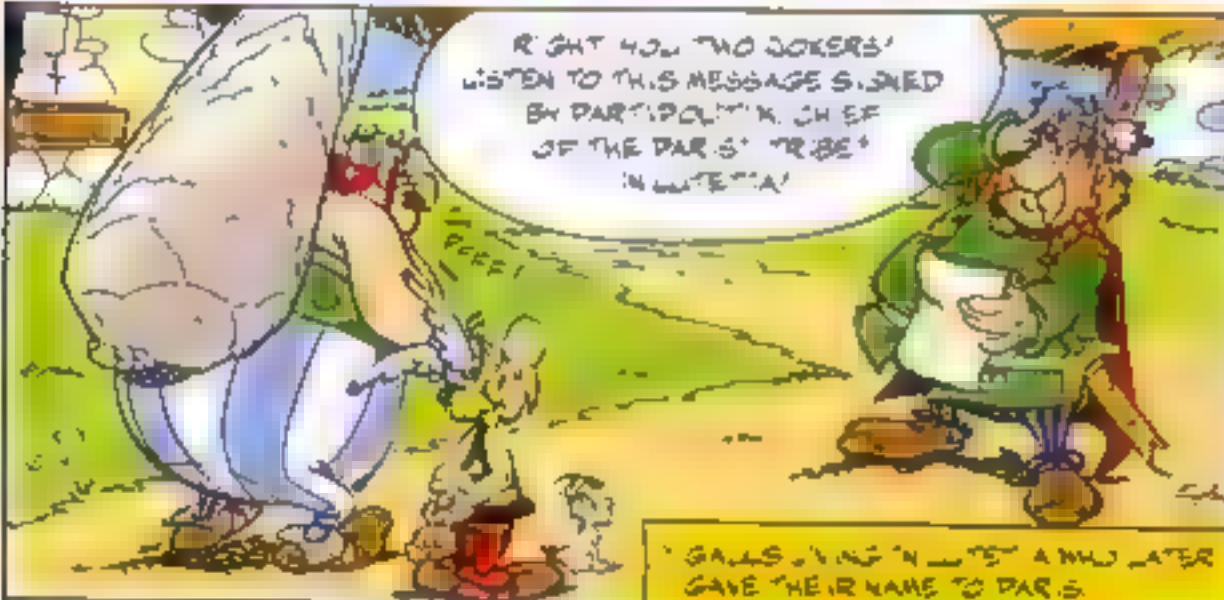
CLANG!

IT WAS ONLY A FIGURE OF SPEECH, YOU FOOLS!!!



RIGHT NOW TWO DOKERS! LISTEN TO THIS MESSAGE SIGNED BY PARTIPOLITIK, CHIEF OF THE PARIS' TRIBES IN GALLIA!

GALLS IN GALLIA AND AFTER GAVE THEIR NAME TO PARIS



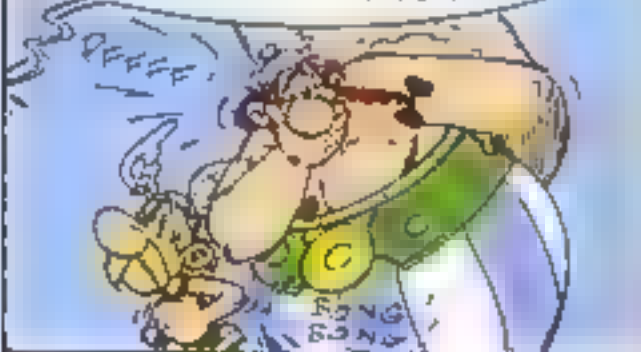
EXACTLY 100 YEARS AGO A GALLISH ATHLETE CALLED PIERRE DECOBERTIN WON AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN GREECE. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A NON-GREEK ATHLETE HAD EVER BEEN CROWNED WITH THE LAUREL WREATH OF VICTORY TO COMMEMORATE THIS EVENT THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO HOLD ITS NEXT GAMES OUTSIDE GREECE!



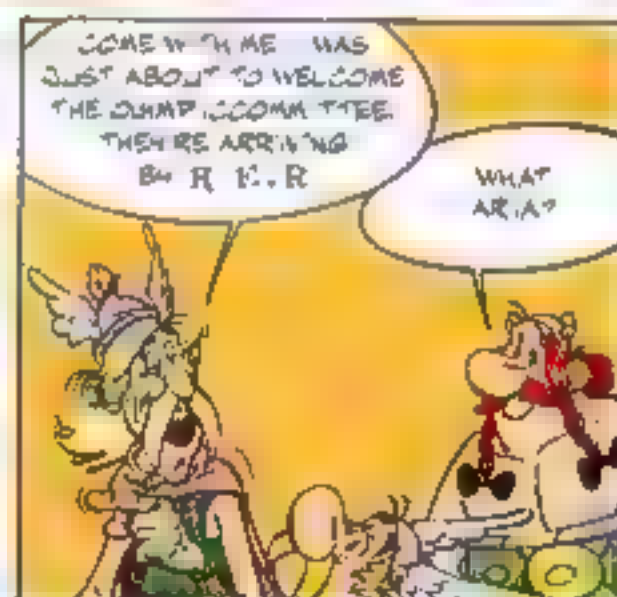
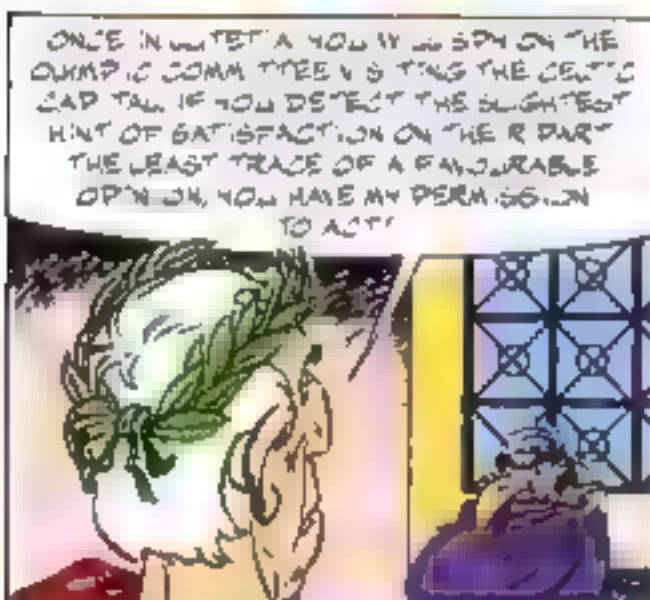
SEVERAL GREAT CITIES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD HAVE PUT IN BIDS TO HOST THE GAMES. IT WOULD BE ONLY RIGHT FOR THEM TO BE HELD IN WEST A THE GALLISH CAPITAL. WE MUST THEREFORE PERSUADE THE DELEGATES OF THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE WHO ARE COMING TO VISIT US TO AWARD THE CITY THAT HONOUR!

ROME HAS ALSO MADE A BID FOR THE GAMES. JULIUS CAESAR IS SURE TO CAUSE TROUBLE TO ENSURE THAT ROME GETS CHOSEN SO I AM ASKING THE VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS TO HELP US PLEASE SEND YOUR MOST COURAGEOUS WARRIORS! THE HONOUR OF GALLIA IS AT STAKE!

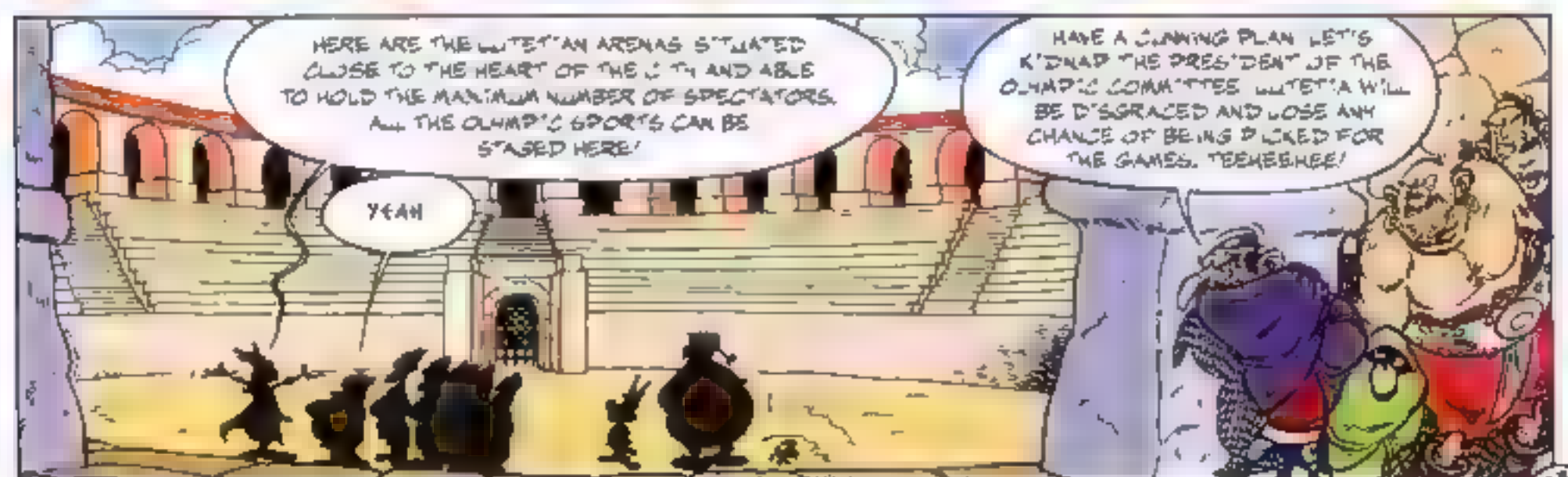
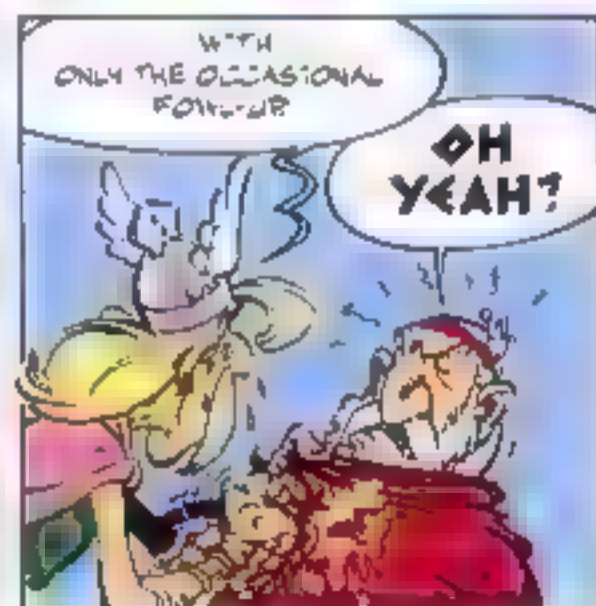
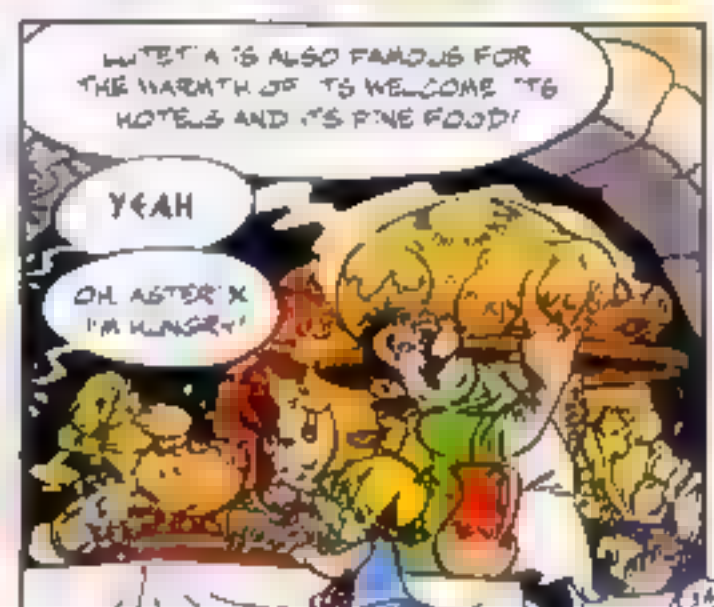
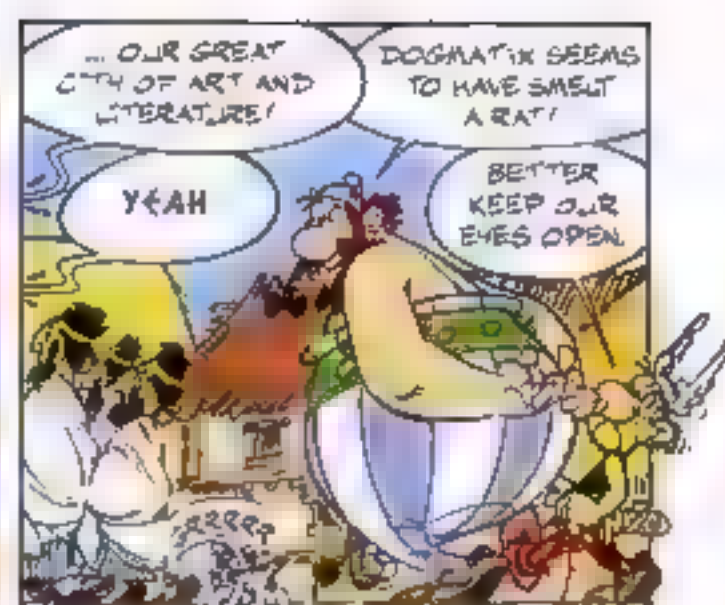
WE ARE YOUR MOST COURAGEOUS WARRIORS O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIN! TRUE ASTERIX BUT TELL YOUR COURAGEOUS FRIEND TO STOP LAUGHING IN THAT SILLY WAY THE HONOUR OF THE VILLAGE IS AT STAKE.



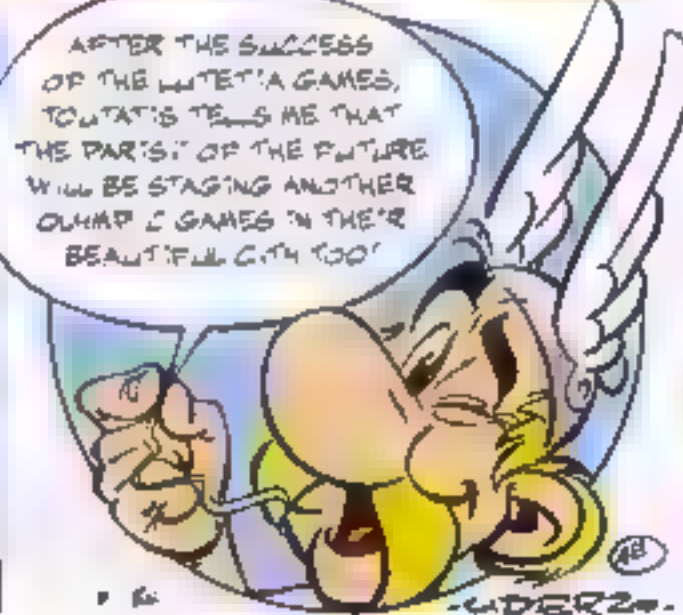
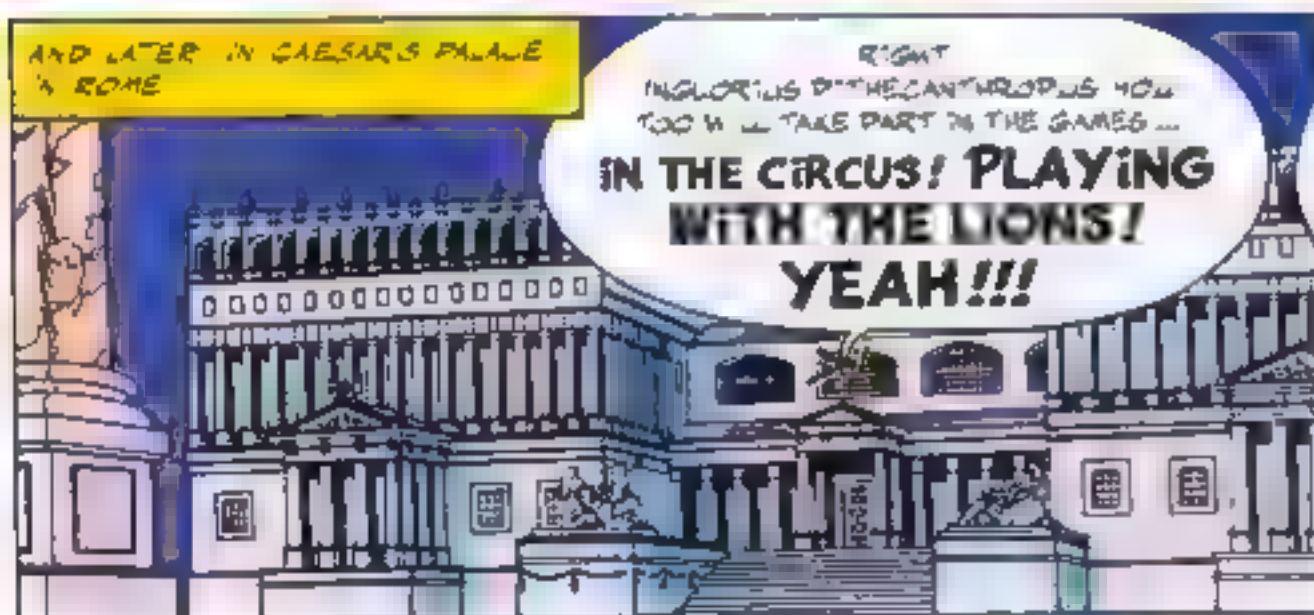
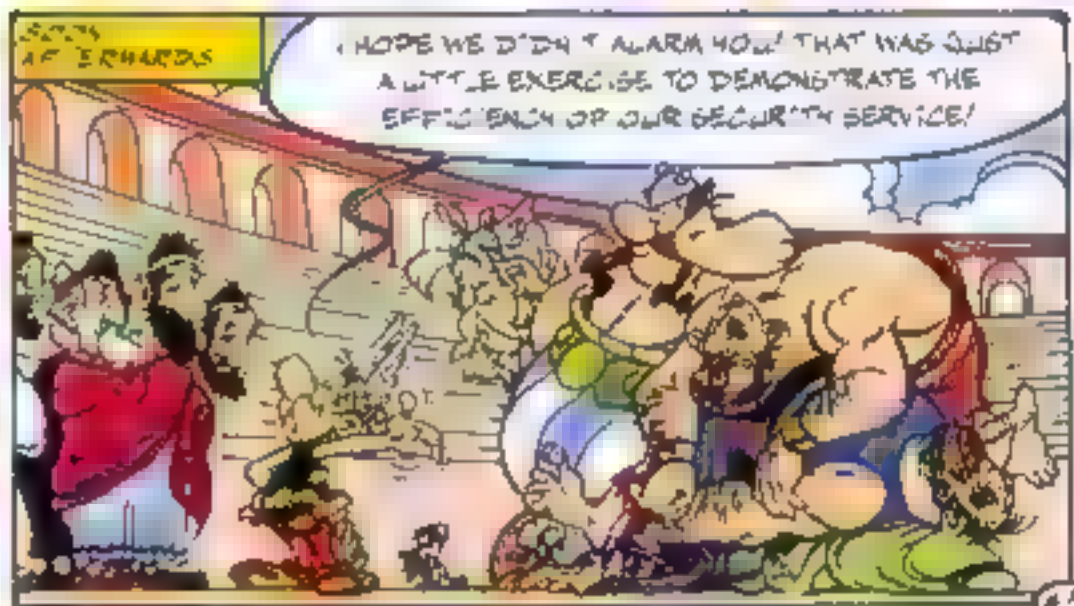
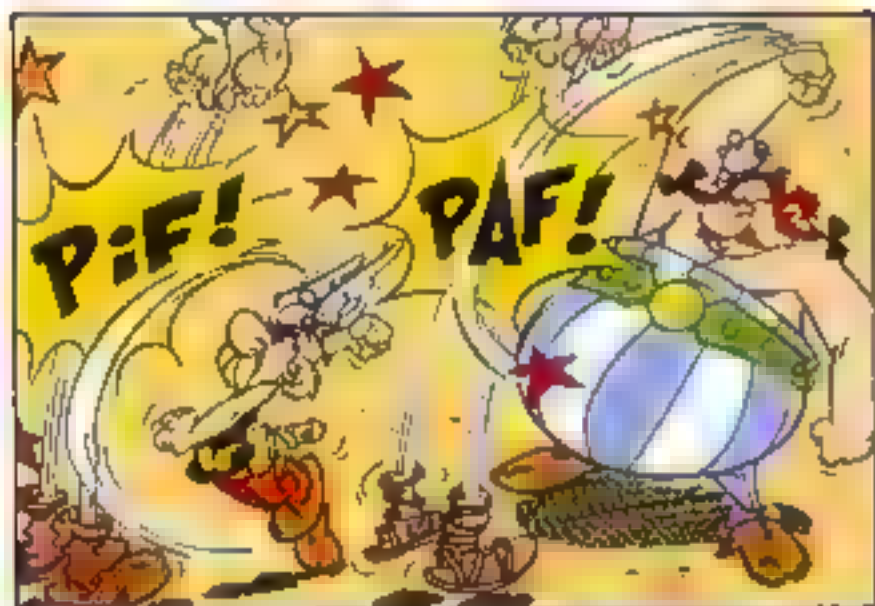










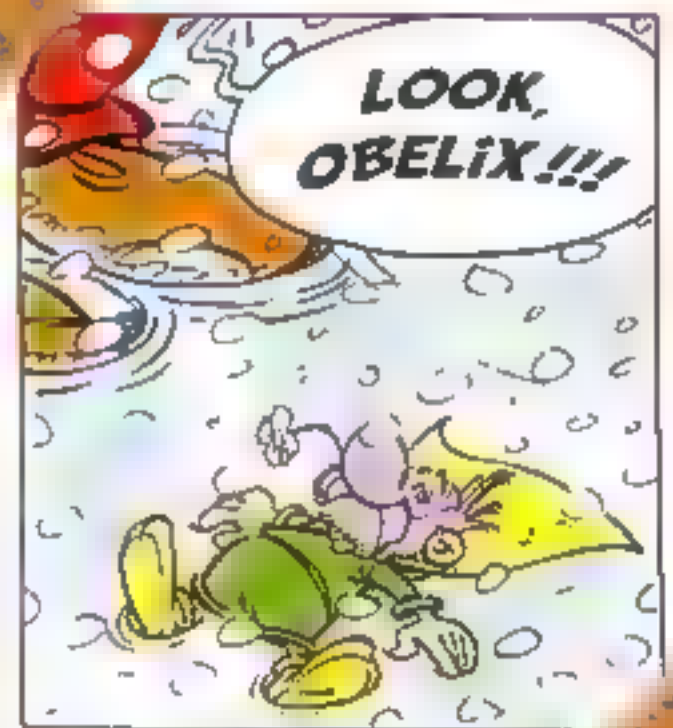




# Springtime in Gaul 17 March 1966

René Goscinny - Albert Uderzo

René Goscinny, overworked at the time, asked Albert if he had any ideas for a story about spring. For the second time Albert wrote a little story of his own and showed it to his colleague before he drew the pictures.



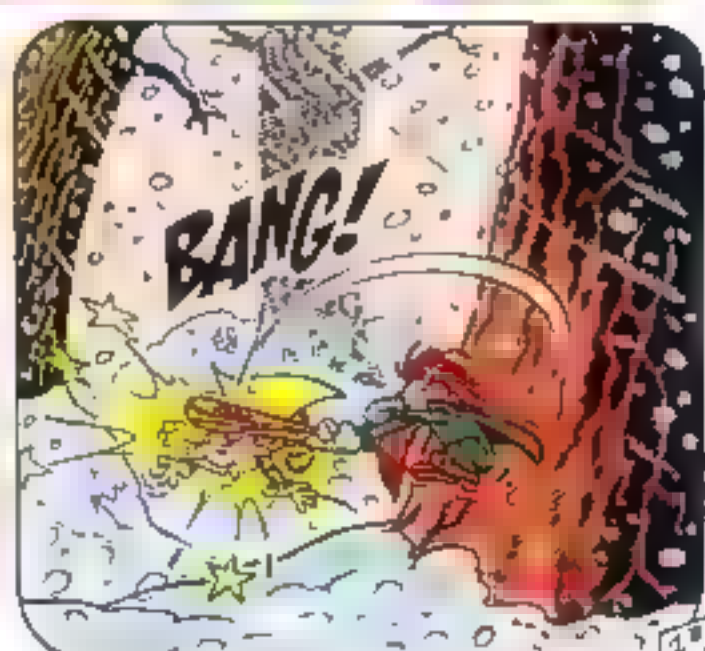
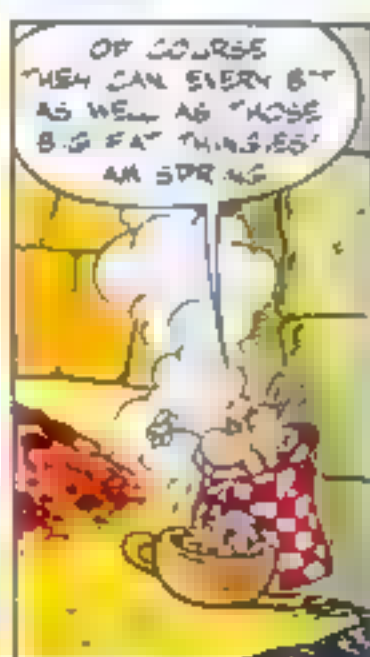
René was delighted with the magical seasons, so Albert created this two-page story on his own, as well as the cover picture of the magazine. Albert was inspired by his childhood, when he loved walking from the Faubourg Saint Antoine to Clugre market near the Bastille in Paris, where the costermongers sold fruit and vegetables from their burrows.

René simply suggested to his friend the part played by Obelix in the final delightful gag.

"Pilote", n°334



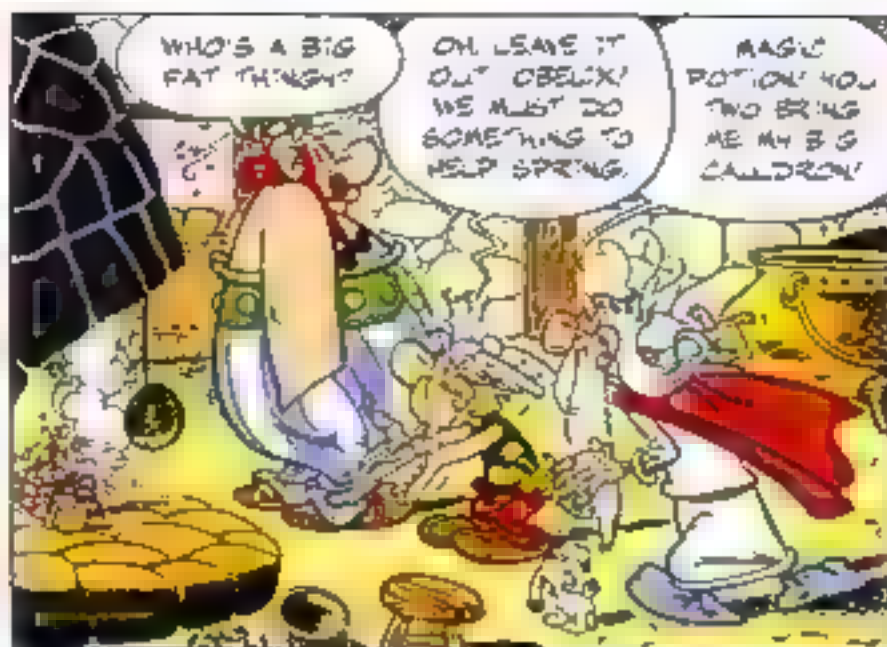








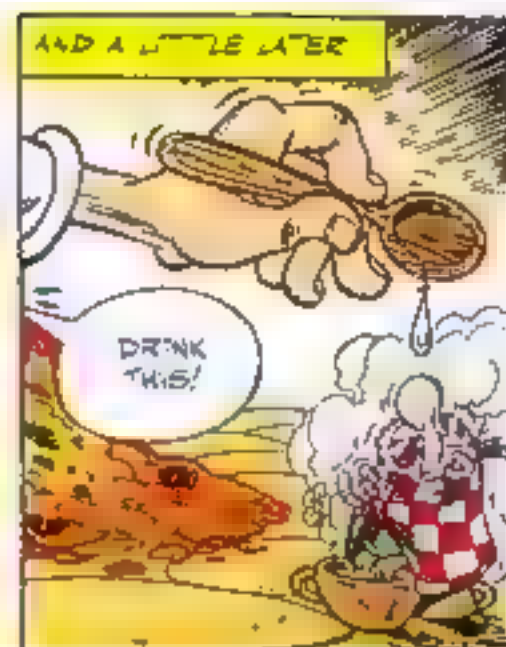
TESHEHEHE!  
AND NOW TO SPREAD  
A PLEASANT EPIDEMIC  
THROUGH THE WHOLE  
ANIMATE WORLD!



WHO'S A BIG  
FAT THING?

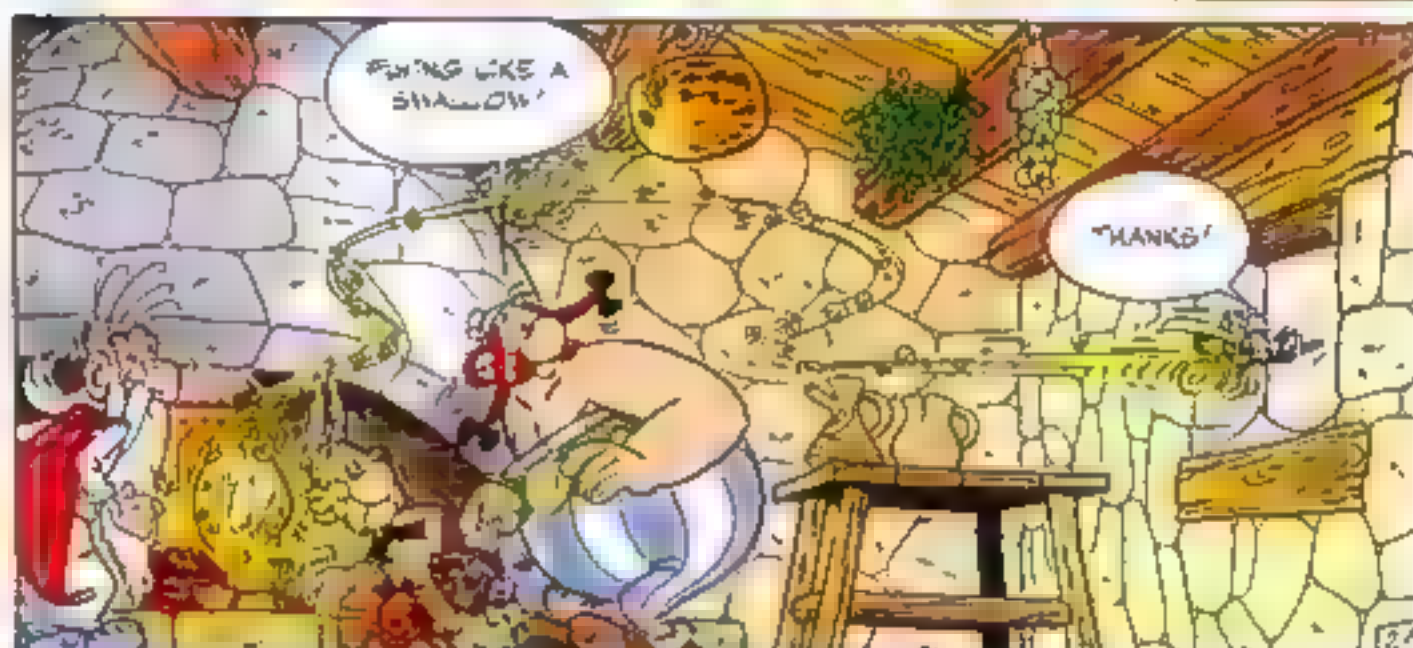
OH, LEAVE IT  
OUT, OBECK!  
WE MUST DO  
SOMETHING TO  
HELP SPRING.

MAGIC  
POTION! YOU  
TWO BRING  
ME MY BIG  
CALDRON!



AND A LITTLE LATER

DRINK  
THIS!



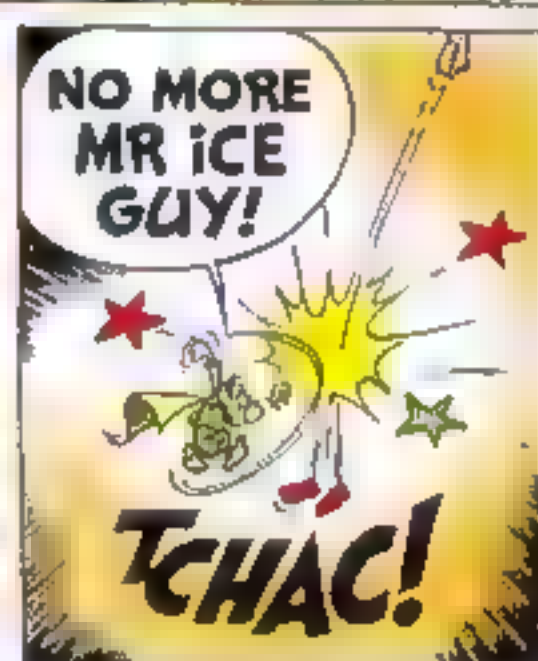
FLYING LIKE A  
SHALLOW!

THANKS!



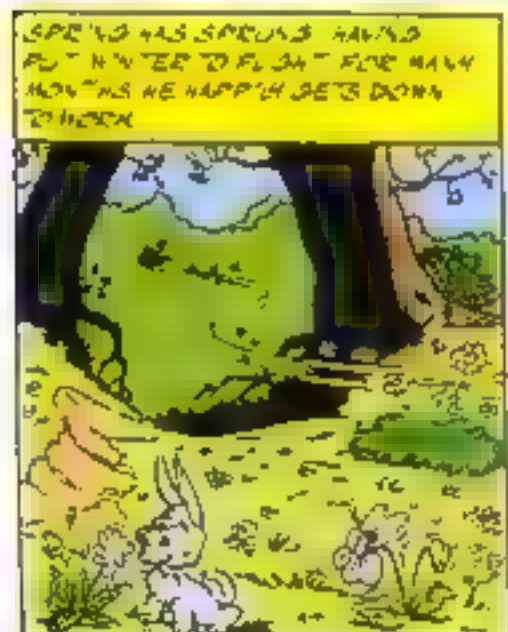
ONE SWALLOW  
MAKES ME SPRING  
IT'S BACK TO WINTER  
QUARTERS FOR NOW

!?!?



NO MORE  
MR ICE  
GUY!

THAC!

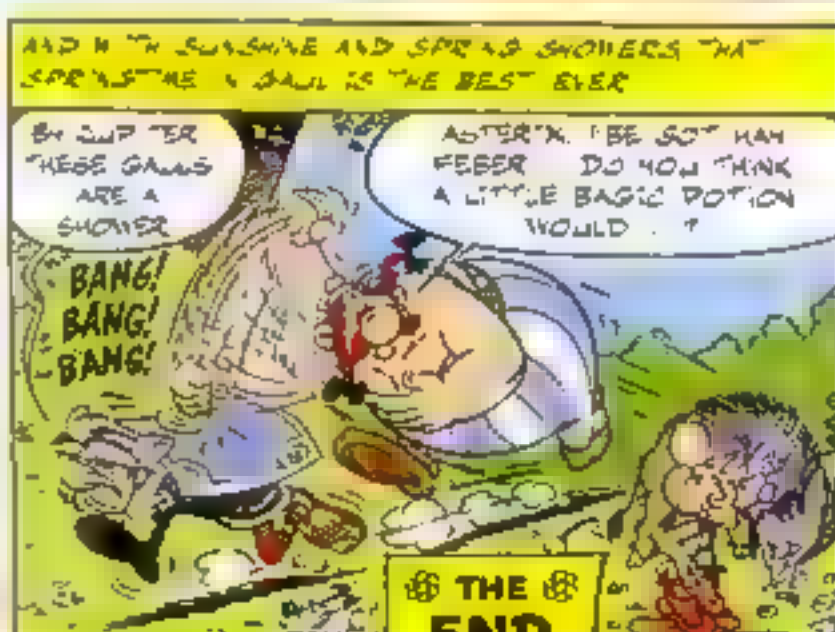


SPRING HAS SPRUNG! HAVING  
PUT WINTER TO REST FOR MANY  
MONTHS HE HAPPILY GETS DOWN  
TO WORK



!?!?

WHEREVER HE GOES BUDS OPEN  
GRASS GROWS AND EVERYWHERE  
IS A SIGN OF NEW LIFE OF  
SPRING



AND WITH SUNSHINE AND SPRING SHOWERS THAT  
SPRINGTIME IS REALLY THE BEST EVER

BY SUPPER  
THESE GALS  
ARE A  
SHOWER

AFTER ALL, I'VE GOT MANY  
FEVER DO YOU THINK  
A LITTLE MAGIC POTION  
WOULD ... ?

BANG!  
BANG!  
BANG!

THE  
END



## The mascot

13 June 1968

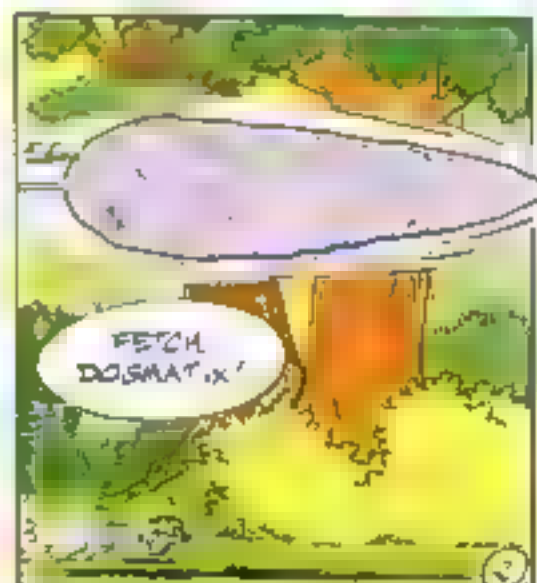
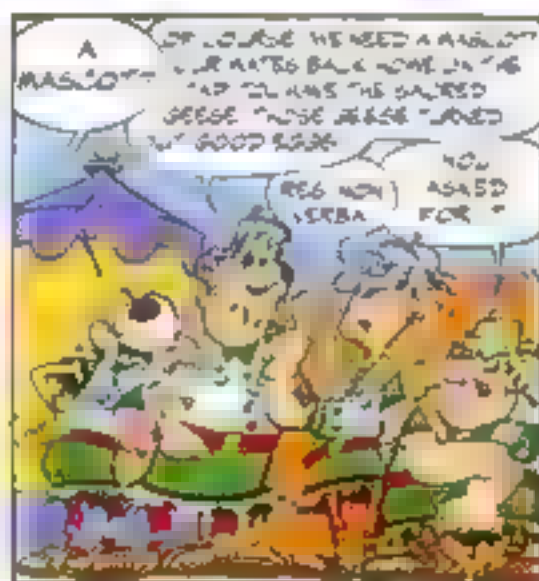
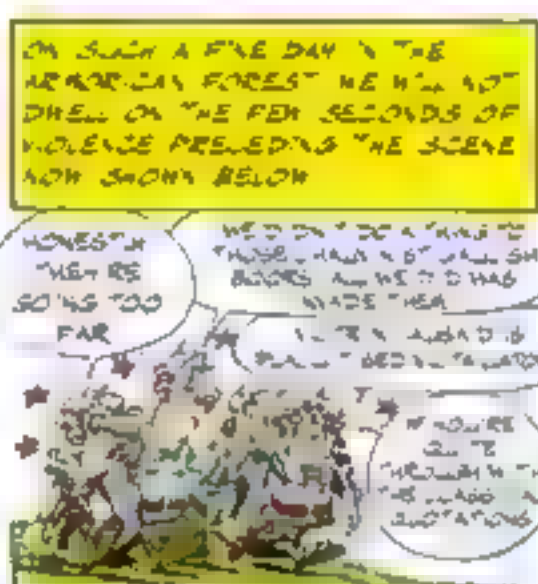
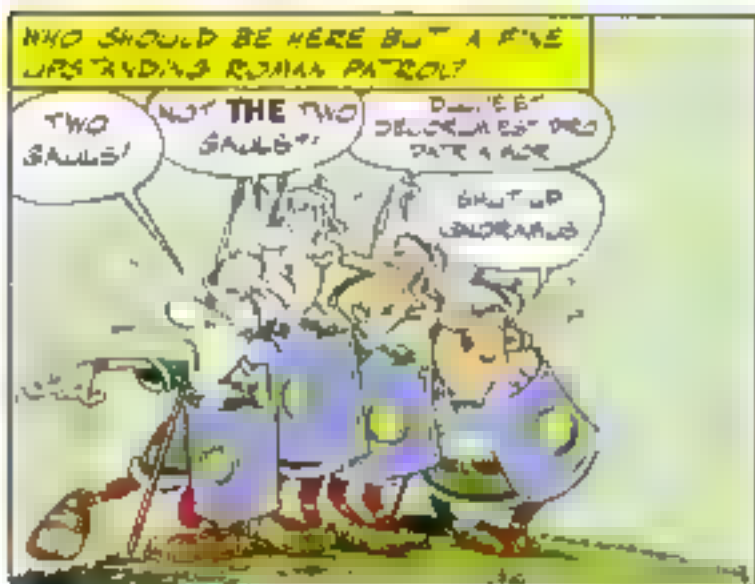
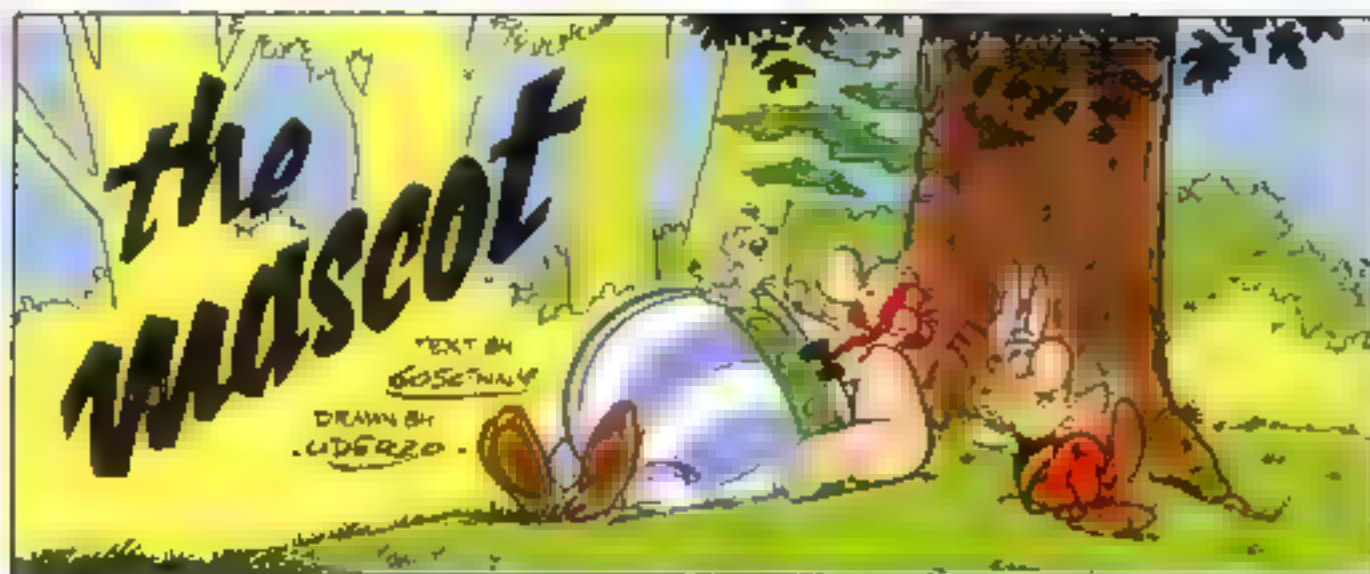
Written by René Gasciary - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

The story of 'The mascot' was originally published in the smaller format of the 'Super Pocket Pilote' series, and in a magazine commissioned by the town council of Romainville — one of the suburbs of Paris. With a name like that — 'Roman-town' — it was not surprising that the council should invite Asterix and his friends to pay a visit. In this complete story, full of the familiar features of the Asterix adventures, Dogmatix is kidnapped. Obelix's little friend, who first appeared in 'Asterix and the Banquet', soon became one of the favourite characters in the village. Here he is the victim of his own charms — after all, anyone would want a little dog who was so keen on preserving the environment twenty centuries ahead of his time.

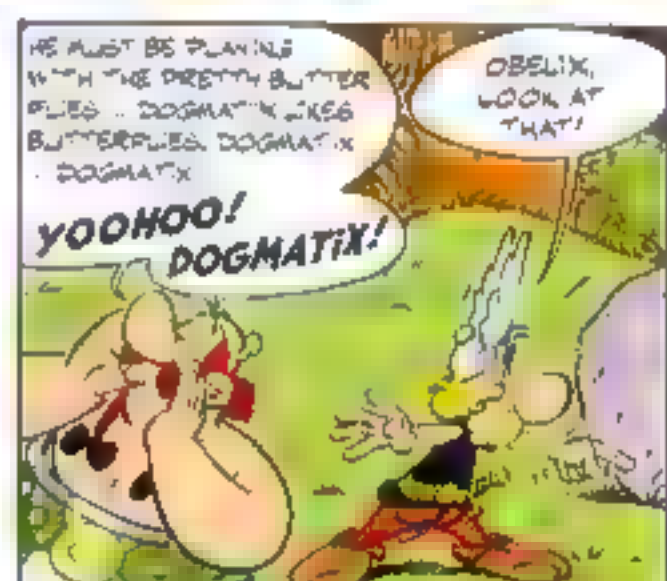
It was all thanks to Dogmatix that Obelix stopped uprooting trees and became ecologically conscious!







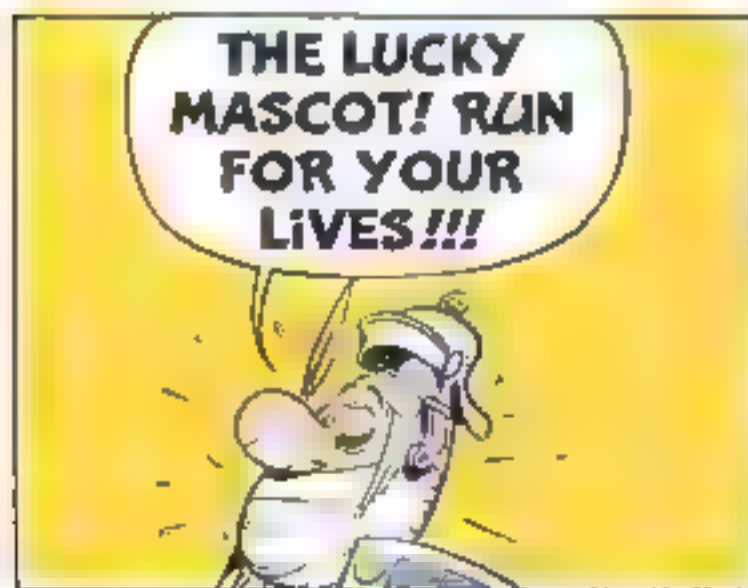














# Latinomania March 1973

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT! THIS ISN'T A FORUM OR AN AUDITORIUM!

ME, SHOUTING? IT'S YOU SHOUTING! SHUT UP, AND THAT'S AN ULTIMATUM!

Thirty years ago, amused by the campaign against the use of English words in French - a phenomenon known as *franglais* - René Goscinny decided to use the Gauls to poke fun at it. He replied indirectly and humorously to the famous author Maurice Duhamel, one of the keenest to defend the purity of French, by imagining a similar fashion for 'Latinisms' in occupied Gaul, and wrote his story, drawn by Albert Uderzo. It will certainly teach you more Latin than the other stories in this collection, by 'Joulatis'!

This story entitled *Latinomania* or 'Et cetera', has been completely re-worked and re-coloured, like most of the stories here that date from the 1960s. Below is the cover of the first edition of the book you are now reading, published in France in 1993. Four hundred thousand copies were sold within weeks. Moreover, it has never

before been published in English, so all fourteen stories are new to readers of Asterix on the other side of the Channel.

Just for the record, on 10 August 1993 (the day the first edition (in a giftbox with the videos of the first Asterix films) was released, the French publishers' switchboards crashed. The success of the book, which sold far more copies than the most optimistic had expected, persuaded us to promise a new, improved and longer edition to the readers and booksellers who have been waiting eagerly for it. 'Would we ever give in to blackmail?' 'By Joulatis, no!' 'But here at last is the book!'

Asterix  
et la rentrée  
gauloise

Les histoires complètes

Volume 100 - 2000 pages  
Dessiné par ALBERT UDERZO

LES ÉDITIONS ALBERT RENÉ



BACK IN THE 60s A NUMBER OF ENGLISH WORDS INVADED THE FRENCH LANGUAGE. THE RESULT WAS KNOWN AS FRANGLAIS BUT IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME SUCH A THING HAD HAPPENED IN ANCIENT GAUL. BACK IN THE 60s, BC OF COURSE!





## The authors take the stage

1962 - 1963

Written by  
René Goscinny - Illustrated by  
Albert Uderzo

Although strip cartoons tend to be written and drawn to a standard pattern today, in the 1960s and 1970s there was more of a libertarian spirit in them, and they often ignored graphic conventions and logical time schemes. Showing the authors in the company of their own creations was almost obligatory — readers expected and wanted it, and indeed that was one of the reasons for the magical sympathy between readers and authors.

It was in this spirit that René and Albert, like many other writers and illustrators

of strip cartoons, invented works of pure fantasy in which they crossed the borders of space and time, and finally revealed the true story of the creation of Asterix.



\* The power to make people laugh, from an epigram by Caesar on Terence, the Latin poet.



# The Obelix family tree

## 07 February 1963

Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

(This story was first published in 15 issues of "Pilote", n° 172-186)









OBELISC'H

8

**OBELISC'H the Fat**

FR END TO THE  
DE VATER ROBERT  
FURLOP BOTH OF  
THEM FROM ST. WALL  
WAS LOST IN THE  
EXPERIMENTAL  
AND LOST IN THE  
WHILE HE WAS NOT  
DURING THE RETURN  
HIS OWN COULD BE  
SITTING ON HIS FEELING  
AGAIN

**OBELISC'H the Boar**

COMPANION OF THE  
KING'S CORSAIR RENE  
DURING THE 145  
WARRIOR DIED DUE TO  
DE LAURE. BETTER  
DURING THE 145 AND  
AND THEN DURING

6

**OBELISC'H Count of Brittany**

FAMOUS FOR WINNING  
THE FIRST BATTLE  
OF MAR SHAN (1511)  
HE WAS KILLED

5

**OBELISC'H Lord of the Manor of the Menhir**

FOUGHT IN THE  
100 YEARS WAR  
WITH THE PRINCE  
BERTRAND DU  
VASSAUX THE  
LORDS. THESE  
ENGLISH ARE LEAST  
IS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM

**OBELISQUE the Hammer**

FLATTENED EVERY  
ENEMY HE MET TO  
AT THE 1450  
WARRIOR KILLED HIS  
MEN AND THE ATTACK  
HIS FAME IS WORTHY  
LET'S GET THEM. HAS  
WARRIOR THAT HE KILLED  
THE ENEMY NOT TO  
KILL HIM

2

**OBELISQUE the Valiant**

COVERED HIMSELF IN  
DURING THE  
DELAURE IN HIS RETURN  
MADE HIS PRINCE BY  
EATING FOUR TEN BOARS  
AT A TIME

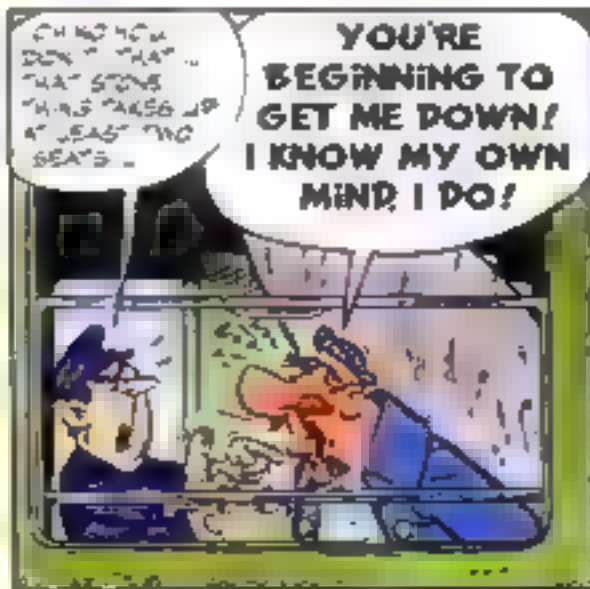
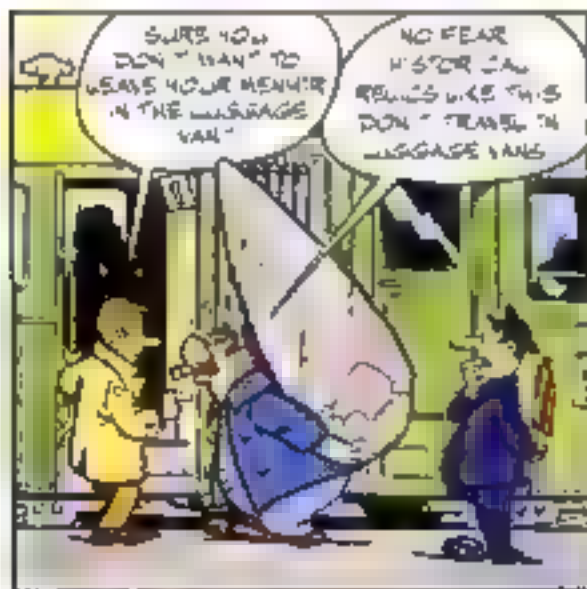
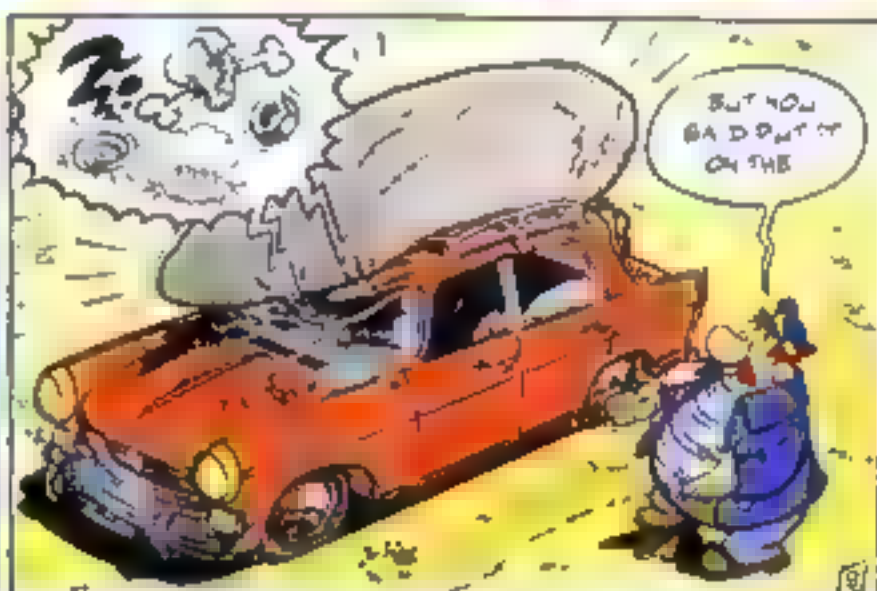
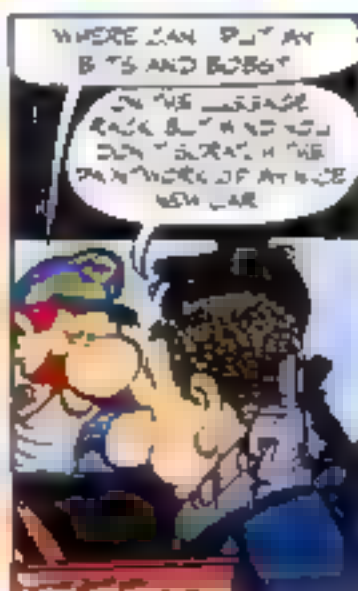
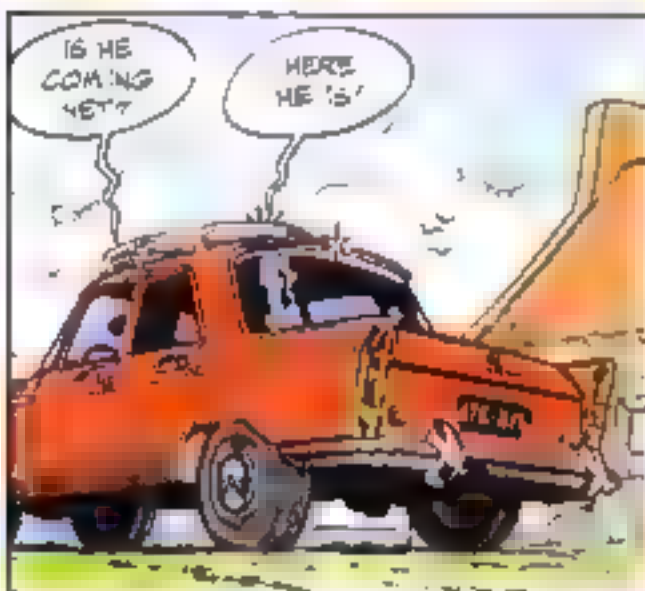
3

**OBELIX Gaulish warrior**

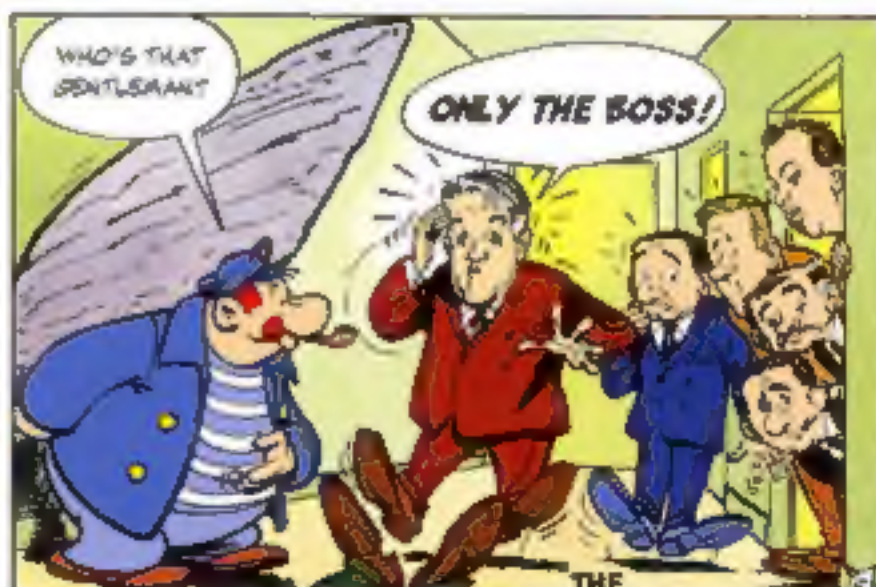
WARRIOR OF THE 145  
FOUNDER OF THE  
DYNASTY











THE END



How do they  
think it all up?  
August 1993



"What gave you the idea of Asterix?"

"Who writes the story and who does the drawing?"

"You must have been good at Latin at school, weren't you?"

"Who are you?"



René Goscinny and I were often and regularly asked such questions, and I still have to answer them today, almost forty-five years after our character Asterix was born.

Some of the questions are not quite the same as those we were asked at first. For instance, "Do you actually make a living out of your little so-and-sos?" has become, "Hey, you must earn oodles of boodle with that lot, don't you?" Well, at least that may be a sign that our job has become more respectable.

And we have always appreciated the elegance, delicacy and attention some readers have shown towards us. Even in the 1960s, we liked responding in our own way in "Pilote", the thinking person's strip cartoon magazine, by answering the question of how an idea is born.

Dear readers, on the next page I offer the answer for your mature consideration, asking myself as always the eternal question, "Will they like it?"



Albert Uderzo



# The birth of an idea

25 October 1962

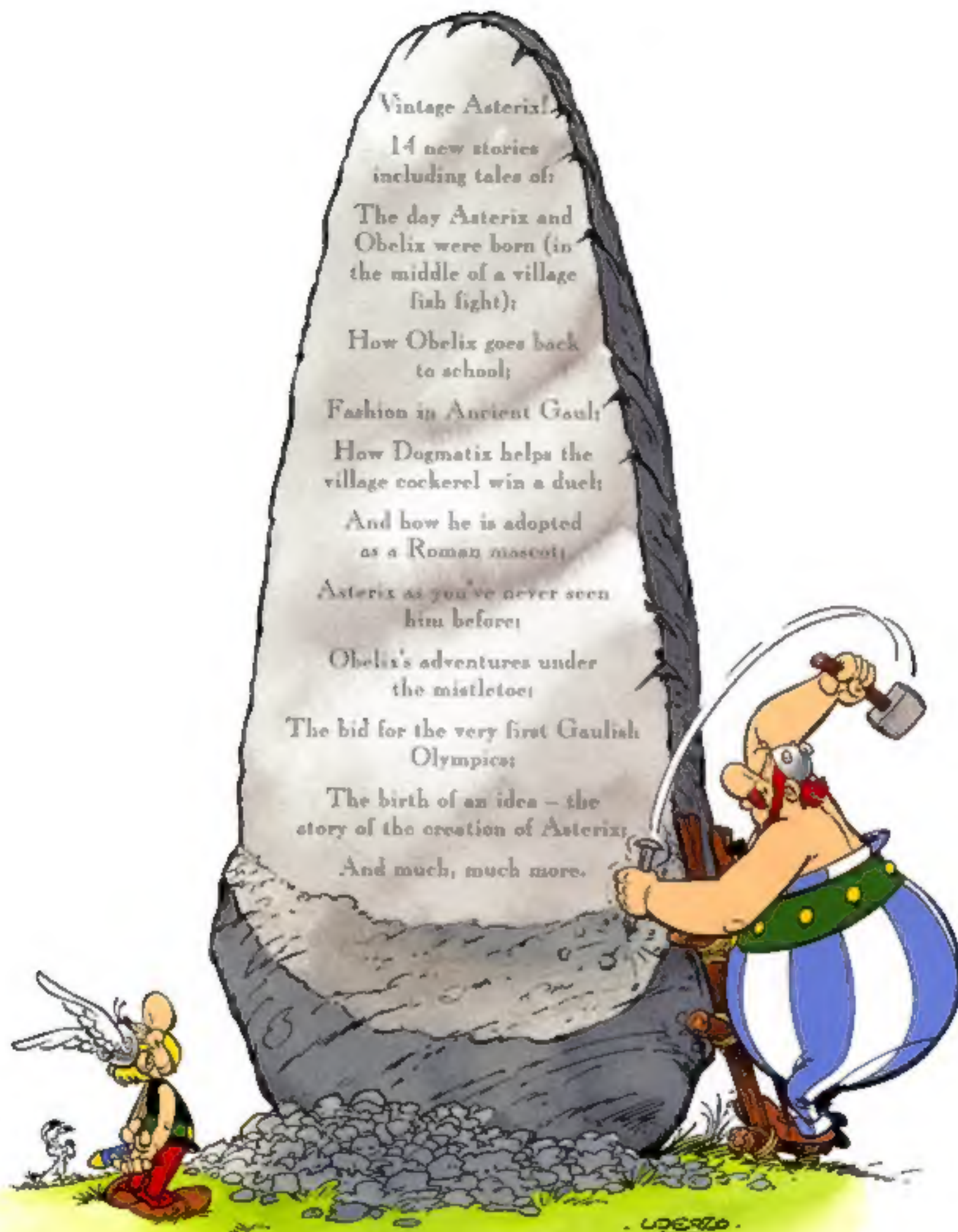
Written by René Goscinny - Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

"Pilote", n° 157



THE  
END





Vintage Asterix!

14 new stories  
including tales of:

The day Asterix and  
Obelix were born (in  
the middle of a village  
fish fight);

How Obelix goes back  
to school;

Fashion in Ancient Gaul;

How Dogmatix helps the  
village cockerel win a duel;

And how he is adopted  
as a Roman mascot;

Asterix as you've never seen  
him before;

Obelix's adventures under  
the mistletoe;

The bid for the very first Gaulish  
Olympics;

The birth of an idea – the  
story of the creation of Asterix;

And much, much more.

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